

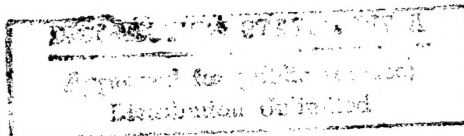
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Latin America Report



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18 June 1984

LATIN AMERICA REPORT

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PLANALTO FEARS OF DEFEAT IN ELECTORAL COLLEGE DISCUSSED

Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 13 May 84 p 3

[Article by C.C.]

[Text] In addition to confusion, Planalto Palace is beginning to show signs of fear. Suddenly, President Joao Figueiredo's principal political aides are realizing that they are threatened with losing power next January, even though they have defeated the amendment providing for direct elections, even though it has been decided to preserve the electoral college and to prohibit the launching of a presidential campaign by a candidate unattached to a party ticket. It happens that although the split within the PDS [Social Democratic Party] is not very great, it is definitive. Even without the Maluf and Andreazza supporters, the group favoring direct elections numbers almost 40 congressmen, and they are determined not to vote either for the former governor of Sao Paulo or the interior minister in the electoral college, should either of them win the nomination of the party convention. The result: since, among the 686 members of the electoral college, the incumbent party has only 35 more votes than the opposition parties, if the opposition parties unite behind a candidate to compete in an indirect election and the PDS dissidents abstain from voting, it will be enough to defeat the PDS.

Up to a few days ago, this appeared to be an impossibility, since the PMDB [Brazilian Democratic Movement Party] was split and hesitant to participate in indirect elections, with Ulysses Guimaraes leading the faction which was determined to denounce the farce and not to take part in it. Things changed all the more after the meeting between the PMDB president and Governor Tancredo Neves on Friday in Belo Horizonte. Unless things change again, it appears likely that, after a time, the PMDB will hold a convention, decide to compete in the indirect elections and seek the support at least of Governor Brizola's PDT [Democratic Workers Party]. The PT [Workers Party] might follow along and the PTE [Brazilian Labor Party] could be neutralized; all this, obviously, if the candidate finally selected by the opposition parties can bring together all the various currents. If it is Tancredo Neves, or someone like him, this would put the government at even greater risk, because deputies and senators who follow the lead of Vice President Aureliano Chaves could very well add to the ranks of the "pro-direct" dissidents and refuse to vote for Maluf or Andreazza.

Minister Octavio Medeiros, chief of the SNI [National Intelligence Service], was alerted to this possibility by other ministers and he may have taken the problem to President Figueiredo, not so much in his capacity as head of the intelligence community which must keep the president informed, but as one of the president's political aides. By the same token, he may have presented options, or one option, since he supports the candidacy of Minister Mario Andreazza and feels that, to dispel the spectre of defeat as well as the spectre of Paulo Maluf, there is only one answer: the president must become engaged in his interior minister's campaign and try to win over the greatest possible number of PDS dissidents. Medeiros, in addition to not believing in it, opposes the idea of negotiations among the parties, first to arrive at a constitutional reform and then with regard to the presidential succession. He holds to the principle that those who hold the power should not let go of it, but must do everything possible to retain it. If the PDS has a majority in the electoral college, it must not throw away that majority.

Things may not have been going as the SNI chief would like, which is why he took his concern to President Figueiredo. It would mean the end of them if an opposition candidate were elected in accordance with the rules of the game established by the Revolution, precisely to continue that revolution.

On the other side of the trench which divides Planalto Palace is Minister Leitaõ de Abreu, who shares the same fears but who has a different solution. For the chief of the civilian household as well, the last thing he would like to see come to pass is the election of one of the opposition candidates in an open contest in the electoral college. Hence he insists on the need to find a consensus candidate, whether that consensus is just within the PDS, through the withdrawal of the four candidates and the selection of a fifth candidate, or, in the last instance, the selection of an apartisan candidate. It could even be someone from the opposition parties as long as the choice is arrived at by negotiation and not a contest, and here, ironically, we come full circle, because Leitaõ would not rule out Tancredo Neves.

In short, after the government had succeeded in warding off the Dante de Oliveira amendment, another spectre appeared to it, that of defeat in indirect elections--which would be much more humiliating but which under no circumstances could be contested since the government itself established the rules of the game back in 1982, with the amendment that unified the representations in the state assemblies. It remains to be seen if the opposition parties have really perceived how much their decisive participation could mean or, on the contrary, if they will continue to behave like leaders of student bodies.

Other Side of the Picture

While the above-mentioned fears infect Planalto Palace, outside the palace the two candidates with the best chance of winning the PDS convention are turning deaf ears to other solutions and are trying to consolidate their positions. Paulo Maluf will not agree to negotiate with anyone at all and is increasingly assuming the stance of a candidate who has no commitment to the executive. Maluf frontally attacked Minister Leitaõ de Abreu, saying that anyone who preaches renunciation should be the first one to practice it. For his part, Mario Andreazza insists that at a certain point in the process the government will find itself with a

choice of Paulo Maluf or himself as a successor. At that point, he says, the decision will come quickly, in his favor. Both men declare that once the convention has been won, another battle will begin: that of reuniting the PDS dissidents and neutralizing the possible rebellion that they have been threatening in the electoral college.

No Clash

Although the issue of the fifth name has been receding since Thursday, with General Figueiredo's statements to Marco Maciel and Mario Garnero that he had not contemplated and did not intend to consider the withdrawal of the four candidates, in the natural course of events an alternative PDS candidate has been gaining ground. It is Minister Jarbas Passarinho, who is not soliciting support or launching any candidacy, and is even blocking movements in his favor, aware that a consensus candidacy cannot be launched or personally solicited. It is not up to the candidate to claim the position but only to witness the process and be prepared to answer the call, if it should come to him. Many deputies and senators who now back other candidates have met with Passarinho in recent days to tell him that, if he is named, they will support him. They include senators Moacyr Dalla, Passos Porto and Amaal Peixoto and Deputy Ernani Satyro. To all of them, Passarinho would only say that the process must be conducted and resolved by Figueiredo.

6362

CSO: 3342/106

DECLINE IN PURCHASING POWER SINCE 1980

Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 13 May 84 p 42

[Article by Jorge Abouch]

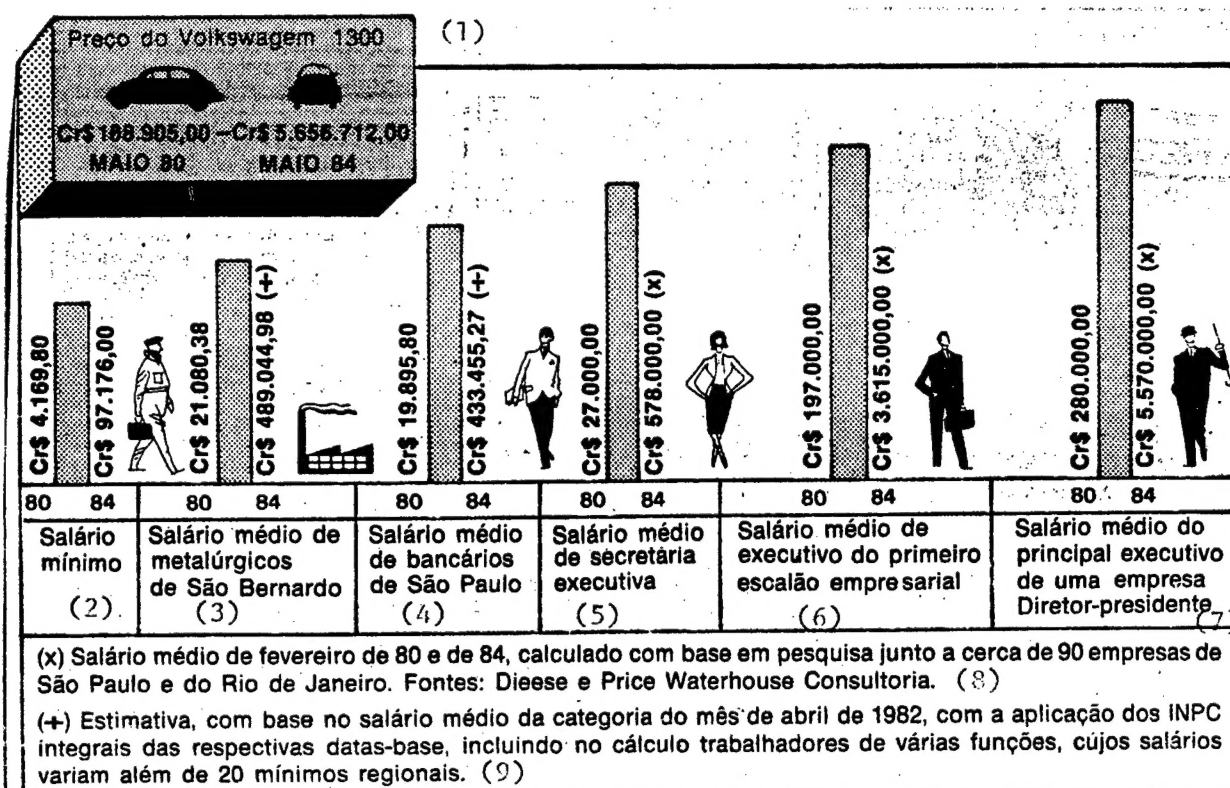
[Text] In May 1980, the highest minimum wage in the country, decreed by the government for the regions of Sao Paulo, Rio de Janeiro, Rio Grande do Sul, Minas Gerais, Parana and Santa Catarina, was 4,169.80 cruzeiros. Theoretically, a worker receiving this wage for 36 months would be able to buy a Volkswagen 1300, the cheapest car manufactured in Brazil, costing 168,905.00 cruzeiros at that time. Today, 4 years later, it would take more than 56 times the minimum wage to buy the same Volkswagen 1300, although the minimum wage was adjusted at 10 percent above the INPC [National Consumer Price Index] in 1980, 1981 and 1982 and was adjusted in accordance with the indexes in the next years: 97,176.00 cruzeiros.

This relationship demonstrates the flattening out of wages during the last 4 years and also indicates the extreme increase in the price of the "beetle." However, the decline in the purchasing power of the wage (about 65 percent in relation to the cheapest car in Brazil) is not limited to the lowest wage brackets. The middle class has also seen a decline in its wage in relation to the price of the Volkswagen: according to a study conducted by Price Waterhouse Consultoria, in February 1980 an executive secretary earned, on the average, about one-sixth of the price of that automobile, or 27,000 cruzeiros. This month, the average salary of a secretary is almost one-tenth the price of the "beetle," since the average wage is in the range of 578,000 cruzeiros. In this case, the purchasing power declined 56 percent in 4 years, an average of 14 percent every 12 months.

Leaving the secretary and taking up the case of a high executive who received the equivalent of a "beetle" and 65 percent of another one in 1980, that executive could now receive only one car and would still owe close to 80,000 cruzeiros on it. His average salary went from 280,000 to 5,570,000 cruzeiros.

According to Luis Antonio Medeiros, secretary general of the Sao Paulo Metalworkers Union, the real wage has been declining for years, both in the lowest brackets and also--and primarily--in the highest brackets, although the old wage law granted 10 percent over the INPC in the bracket up to three times the regional minimum wage. With the issuance of the decrees, the wage containment became even more apparent, the union leader continued, not only because the adjustments

Table: Comparison of Wages in 1980 and 1984



Key:

1. Price of Volkswagen 1300
2. Minimum wage
3. Average wage of São Bernardo metalworkers
4. Average salary of São Paulo bankers
5. Average salary of executive secretary
6. Average salary of high-level business executive
7. Average salary of principal company executive: director-president
8. (x) Average salary for February 1980 and 1984, calculated on the basis of a study of about 90 companies in São Paulo and Rio de Janeiro. Sources: DIEESE [Interunion Department of Statistics and Socioeconomic Studies] and Price Waterhouse Consultoria.
9. (+) Estimate, based on the average wage for the category in April 1982, with the application of the full INPC to the respective base data. Workers in various functions were included in the computation, with salaries ranging beyond 20 times the regional minimum wage.

are below the INPC for those who earn more than three times the minimum wage but also because that index does not accurately reflect the variation in the cost of living, owing to the deletions.

In addition, according to the union secretary general, there is another problem: "When a wage agreement is negotiated, the businessmen argue that their companies are not in good shape and also that the government does not permit them to add the cost on to the price of the products. As we see it, there are two weights and two measures, because the company always manages to pass on the cost, whereas the government will not approve any agreement with rates higher than those established by the law for any category." He goes even further, citing statistics from the Interunion Department of Statistics and Socioeconomic Studies, which demonstrate both the issue of the flattening out of wages and the inflated prices of products: in just 4 months, the cost of the minimum basic diet, in hours worked, rose from 161 hours and 21 minutes to 190 hours and 59 minutes.

The losses did not occur just in the categories which received wage adjustments based on the legislation in effect. Even for categories which signed agreements higher than the official rates, such as the metalworkers of Sao Bernardo do Campo, there has been a substantial decline in purchasing power in relation to the price of the automobiles. Considering the average wage for this category in 1982, with the application of the 6-month INPC in 1983 and the full index for April 1984 (in accordance with the contract reached for assembly workers), the cost of the "beetle" rose from 8 to 11.5 times that wage from May 1980 to May 1984. In other words, the average wage rose from 21,080.38 cruzeiros to 489,044.98 cruzeiros. Even so, it must be noted that the average wage for May 1980 is an estimate; i.e., the median of the data from March 1980 to March 1981, since the readjustments for this category are in April and October. So the Sao Bernardo do Campo metalworkers suffered a loss of 43.5 percent, because in 4 years the total readjustment for the category was 2,219.9 percent, whereas the price of the Volkswagen 1300 rose 3,249 percent in the same period.

In the case of the Sao Paulo bankers, the difference is even greater: 1,171 percent. The salaries in the category were revised upward by 2,070 percent in the last 4 years, from an average salary of 19,895.80 cruzeiros to 423,455.27 cruzeiros. In other words, they have lost more than half of their purchasing power.

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BRIEFS

EGYPTIAN MINISTER'S VISIT--The rapprochement between Brazil and Egypt will make it possible for Butrus Ghali, Egyptian minister of state for foreign affairs, to pay an official visit to Brazil on 11 and 12 June. When Egypt and Israel signed the Camp David accords, sponsored by the United States, and the Arab world ostracized Egypt, Brazil was a party to the reprisal and shunned Cairo. When Egypt was finally readmitted to the Arab world, Brazil decided to resume relations with the country. Contrary to what his title suggests, Ghali is not the foreign minister of Egypt, but is only the number two man in the ministry, although he is considered a figure of some political power in the government structure. Ghali intends to examine with Itamaraty the principal common issues in the international situation and to study formulas to bring peace to the Middle East. Regarding commerce, an important trade deal is being implemented: Brazil is to supply Tucano parts to Egypt for mounting in the Brazilian planes in that country. Butrus Ghali's visit, which could open other economic prospects, was preceded by an exploratory visit to Cairo by Ambassador Paulo Tarso Flecha de Lima, chief of the Trade Promotion Department of Itamaraty. In 1973, when Brazil was pursuing a neutral policy with regard to the Middle East, Mario Gibson Barbosa, foreign minister in the Medici government, visited Egypt and Israel. After 1975, with the beginning of the Geisel government, Brazil changed course and established an automatic alignment with the Arab world. [Text] [Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 16 May 84 p 6] 6362

COLD PRODUCTION FIGURES--Gold production in the first quarter of 1984 was 8,281 kilograms, as against 7,221 kilograms [in the same period] last year, according to the DNPM [National Department of Mineral Production]. Production in April in the major gold fields was only 753.3 kilograms, whereas 2,150 kilograms were mined in March and 6,267 kilograms in the first 2 months of 1984. According to the DNPM, the main reason for this decline is that production is almost completely at a standstill in the Serra Pelada field (in Para), the nation's major gold producer. In March, only 233.8 kilograms of gold were extracted from Serra Pelada, whereas the other mines (Tapajos, Cumaru, Alta Floresta, Peixoto de Azevedo and Alto Madeira) produced 1,917 kilograms. In April, Serra Pelada, Tapajos, Cumaru, Peixoto de Azevedo and Alto Madeira produced only 753.3 kilograms. The Tapajos mine became the nation's major gold producer when Serra Pelada was almost completely idled because of security problems and the as yet unsolved legal impasse regarding its possible conversion into a gold preserve to be assumed by the gold prospectors. [Text] [Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 1 May 84 p 28] 6362

SOCIALIST PARTY LEADER ALMEYDA ON CURRENT POLITICAL SCENE

PY252100 Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish 13 May 84 p D5

[Report on undated interview which Chilean Socialist Party leader Clodomiro Almeyda granted to EL MERCURIO correspondent Maria Angelica de Luigi in Buenos Aires]

[Text] Upon our arrival in Buenos Aires all we had was a telephone number. A confidential call put us in touch with the "contact" who took us along those narrow streets in Buenos Aires where the language and presence of extroverted Argentines is rarely noted. When we finally arrived at an apartment building, which rents out to anonymous persons, we thought that...things were going too far. Had we been invited to play some sort of bandits' game?

"The thing is that the repression has a very long arm," we were told afterwards--after "Don Cloro" [nickname for Clodomiro] had taken an Aeroflot plane to the East--by the socialists with whom we met at some Argentine cafeteria surrounded by this city, alive at 0200 in the morning, full of theaters, discoteques, shows.... There we went over this meeting between EL MERCURIO and Allende's former foreign minister.

Almeyda himself opened the door of that anonymous apartment to which we were taken in such a mysterious manner. A few more strands of white hair, a few more wrinkles, a white moustache, the same scholarly tone of voice of a philosophy professor and...the same socialist look which we have almost forgotten in 10 years, the same style of "revolutionary danday" which Allende used mixing a well cut bourgeois suit and militant terminology: "dialectic, people's struggle, the contradictions of capitalism, class struggle," and so forth....

He met us with a handshake and a kiss on the cheek. At 1100 in the morning he was sipping pisco "to feel closer, more in touch with our things...."

He wanted to tell us more about exile, but we would not let him speak about... "that life which is only half a life," the life that he lived first in Romania, later in Mexico and, for the last 8 years, in the GDR, the most dogmatic Communist country.

"Don't tell me that I am excessively dogmatic. I have already told you that we endorse pluralism," he complained several times...but his attitude was not always sober and gentle. During the question-answer game, the tone of his voice became at times, for seconds, defiant:

"Look, we want unity with this side (he was referring to a wide spectrum ranging "from the left to the democratic sectors of the Armed Forces"). [quotation marks as published] But with the other side....

He made a long pause, but we urged him....

[Question] Yes? What about the other side?

[Answer] ...I am not Archbishop Fresno!

[Question] What do you mean by that?

[Answer] That I am not a pastor, but a soldier.

[Question] What do you intend to do with your adversaries?

[Answer] Look, this is not a struggle against men, but against the unreasonableness and injustice of this dictatorship.

[Question] Do you want to bring someone to court?

[Answer] The people will obviously have to demand that the responsibility of those who are guilty be established in keeping with the principles of international law, with the UN principles....

[Question] International law? Aren't you talking about Chilean courts?

[Answer] No, they do not qualify. They have been accomplices, not to say the actual authors, of all the crimes of the dictatorship.

[Question] And if you do not consider that they qualify, why are you sponsoring a transition government headed by Supreme Court President Rafael Retamal?

[Answer] Because the way things are, it is the only remaining expression of the legal order in Chile, a legal order to which I swore obedience when I was foreign minister under President Salvador Allende...it is the only remaining expression of legitimate legal order. In addition, the Supreme Court is now headed by someone who, in our opinion, qualifies from the viewpoint of his human and moral qualities and also from the viewpoint of consensus....

[Question] Look out! Retamal has severely criticized the Allende administration....

[Answer] That is not a crime. I am a democrat and I respect dissent....

[Question] But, obviously, if the Supreme Court president were somebody else, like Israel Borquez, you would not sponsor him as the head of a transition government.

[Answer] Is he the one who said that he was annoyed at the cases on missing persons? That commentary is enough for an answer to your question, right?

We also shook him a bit (just "a bit," because he would never give up his scholarly tone, a voice of a professor) when we asked him for the umpteenth time whether he, in his capacity as a Leninist, still sponsored "the dictatorship of the Proletariat and the use of violence to find a solution for Chile." He interrupted his endless walk about the room with an overwhelmed "phew!..."

[Answer] "Look, under the influence of propaganda, and of the lack of freedom for universities, intellectuals, ideologists, books and ideas, Chileans have suffered a regression, right? The information that they receive is of a lower quality. That is, Chileans have suffered a cultural, political and ideological blackout. To read the Chilean press and to talk with Chileans is now quite different from what is used to be..the situation is quite different, right? Now there is backwardness and decline, and it is almost impossible to exchange ideas because cultural standards are too low. It is a disaster...it is the price paid for these 10 years, which were wasted...look, when I read your newspaper I find that everything ranging from social news to the manner in which economic problems are analyzed reflects so much mediocrity and incompetence. There are questions that are so senseless, and intellectual levels, like everything else, are so limited, so limited!, phew...."

He several times criticizes us as representatives of a newspaper which..." I admit, is struggling and which, acting like a barrier, wants to stress the differences that may separate us, the Socialists...."

He went on: Do you know who the best Chilean journalist is? It is ANALISIS director Juan Pable Cardenas, because his articles echo both the wish for unity of the left and the people's struggle.... And do you know what the symbol for Christianity in Chile is? It is Father Marotto, who symbolizes Christianity and the revolution, which represent the true message of the gospel. Because, do you know what the real original sin is, the one that destroyed the unity of men in primitive society? The struggle for the goods which gave rise to the struggle of classes.... That is the lost paradise."

In addition to answering our questions, he wanted to go even deeper into his conception of the Chilean Church and, inside the church, into "those true Christians who really want the gospel message to come true. In other words, those who want to start building the kingdom of God here on earth, which is the essential meaning of the Christian faith. Because otherwise, Christianity would be, as Marx put it, the opium of the people."

[Question] But, what can you say about the true message of the gospel? Aren't you an atheist?

[Answer] No...I am a Marxist.

[Question] Is that a religion? I am asking you whether you believe in God.

[Answer] Look, the thing is that the word atheist refers to another ideological context of the past century.

[Question] But, do you believe in God or not?

[Answer] I do not believe in God the way Christians do. I do not believe in God as Christians or Muhammadans would. I'd rather say I believe in God in the Buddhist way....

We had started talking about Salvador Allende's party in a constantly changing game board. At the beginning of the interview there were two general secretaries: one, Carlos Briones, from the Socialists of the Democratic Alliance [AD]; the other, himself, Clodomiro Almeyda, of the Socialists from the MDP [Popular Democratic Movement].

But at the end of the interview, when Almeyda was aboard his Aeroflot flight, there was a third secretary general in Chile: "Comrade" Manuel Mandujano, who heads a new faction of the Socialists within the AD.

At the beginning, however, Almeyda refused to discuss the issue, nothing: "I do not know the details, I believe there is a certain disagreement among them. But I would not like to be misunderstood by those Socialist with whom we keep cordial relations...."

[Question] But you do know the differences existing between you and them, between the Socialists who are within the AD and your group, which supports the communists, and the MIR [Movement of the Revolutionary Left], in the MDP...?

[Answer] Look, in general, these differences can be overcome.

[Question] Yes? But they say that you and your Socialist Party represent dogmatic-Marxism-Leninism....

[Answer] Well, anything can be interpreted several ways, right? We believe that they have experienced a process of ideological regression, an influence of the so-called "political culture ebb." Look, what happened is that the military coup and its effects, in addition to international phenomena, produced in Chilean Socialism what I would call an ideological regression, a sort of loss of faith in socialist utopia. And also an acceptance of ideas that are foreign to the essence of socialism. All these issues, has separated them from the basic principles that have inspired socialism since its birth in the mid-1800's, and which were brilliantly exposed--from the literary, philosophical and conceptual point of view--in the Communist Manifesto. I believe that the Socialist trend within the AD is questioning these fundamental principles. Well that is that.... All defeats cause a certain discouragement, pessimism, doubt and questioning of one's own identity. This is an effect which Chile and the left experienced after the military coup.

[Question] You put things as if they, the so-called renewed Socialists, are questioning Marxism. But from what we understand, they are questioning the Leninist aspect, the achievement of Marxism through the establishment of a proletarian dictatorship.

[Answer] Look, this is a very complex issue.... I believe that the most important thing is the party's Leninist conception. I believe that these Socialists, and the so-called renewed left. Quote, unquote, really criticize the vanguard concept, the prevailing force in a revolutionary process...for some mysterious reason they tend to think that the masses, the people have an

unclear idea, and that it is enough to open proper channels so that this unclear idea may become a political force channels so that this unclear idea may become a political force and eventually achieve the transformation of society.

[Question] This is what you say they think. And you, the Socialists of the MDP, what do you think?

[Answer] We are Leninists. We believe that there has to be a relation between the vanguard and the masses, and this is why the party exists. The party exists because it crystallizes the level of consciousness that is reflected in organization and leadership. If this were not the case, all things would be resolved by themselves, by the simple development of events, but history shows the contrary.

[Question] Tell me in your concept...who is better? The Socialists of the AD, or yourselves?

[Answers] You must know what my answer to this question will be.

[Question] You mean that you are better?

[Answer] You must assume what my answer will be. Look.... We believe that we better represent the Socialist people, that we have a better organization, that we are more aware politically, and that we uphold a more just political position. But in the end this is not an essential problem. Once the effects of the military coup have been overcome, the trend of the majority of Chilean Socialists--and this is a trend we are already witnessing--will be to return to the integral unity of all Socialists, but naturally under certain ideological and organic guidelines. I would like to specifically note that whatever I may say in this interview in answer to your question does in no way mean that these Socialists are disqualified. This is not my intention at all. I trust that we shall be able to achieve unity through struggle and experience. And from this point of view, these differences will be part of future history, of the petite histoire... [given in French].

[Question] Nevertheless, you have to admit that the position you hold against them, that is, of continuing united at all costs of the Communist Party and the MIR, will not be part of this "petite histoire."

[Answer] I agree, and I will not ellude this issue....

And the truth of the matter is that Almeyda discussed the issue "extensively." Defining himself as an ideologue by profession, pacing the room untirelessly, reasserting his phrases with wide gestures, throwing his head back, and making long pauses to meditate, Almeyda outlined his political theory of the Chilean left. He asserted that the Chilean left is made up of five trends..."each one of which is an answer to a specific time in history, but all of which are part of what we call Socialism." They are the Communist Party, "which came into being as a result of the Russian revolution"; the Socialist Party "which was influenced by the international capitalist crisis of the period ranging from 1929 to 1932"; the MIR..."which was a direct consequence of the impact that the

Cuban revolution had on all Chilean youth..."; "the Popular Christian Movement...a vanguard and revolutionary Christianity that was virtually an answer to the Catholic Church's general Aggiornamento, the Second Vatican Council, the Medellin, the Puebla meetings, in addition to the experience of Christians within the Christian Democracy, and the frustration that leftists experienced with Frei's reform program"; and the Radical Party [PR]..."which I would say are those who come from the old Chilean left which is the PR and who have not stagnated in the values with which they were born...."

After his long explanation, Almeyda noted: "Therefore, each one of these five trends, which are characterized by the time in which they came into being, converge with each other. They are converging trends because all of them are Socialists. So it turns out that this is how we--who people say are very dogmatic, and stagnated--view the situation and why we were the first to turn it into a political proposal. The word "Socialist Bloc" was created by us to describe a sort of alliance between these five trends. Our ideal is [word indistinct] all these trends will converge since it is through this unity that the left may become a hegemonic force in Chile. And now I am going to say something that our "renewed" comrades are going to dislike: as it turns out, we, the dogmatics, were the ones who were able to achieve this unity."

[Question] And why do you think that they will not be able to do the same?

[Answer] Because, unfortunately they have a low ideological level. They talk a lot about pluralism, but they are not even capable of interpreting our history, as we have done.

[Question] Despite this "historic interpretation" of yours, many of them refuse to support the communists and the MIR again....

[Answer] But there is not much difference in this regard. I believe that the majority of Socialists that are within the AD raise no problems in this regard....

[Question] Well then, why aren't you united?

[Answer] There is a pending offer on our part. But there is a negative answer on their part.... I wouldn't even call it a negative answer. It is more of a doubt....

[Question] A doubt, why?

[Answer] Who knows?

[Question] Does it have to do with the present Chilean political situation? If they were to definitively support the MDP, they will obviously not be followed by the Christian Democracy, or the Republican left, or....

[Answer] This may be the reason. That is why I tell you: they have doubts, doubts....

At this point Clodomiro Almeyda reasserted his appeal not only to the five leftist trends but "to all other democratic forces."

To the Radicals:

"We highly value the contribution of the Radicals. Beyond the PR as such, of that radical world that transcends party organizations, and which is very vast particularly in the provinces, the PR is very important and we grant it great value."

To the Christian Democrats:

"We also grant great importance to the Christian Democracy [PDC]. We believe that within the PDC there are a lot of people who share our points of view of the left. That there are Christian Democrats who are really supporters of the left despite the fact that at present they are part of a party of the center since naturally they are not interested in dividing their party since their unity grants them greater political force. But there is heterogeneity within the Christian Democrats and, naturally, we do not want to intervene in their problems although in common practice, in the practice of struggle, in ideological debate, we share wide and fundamental ideas with them. We are in agreement with such PDC politicians as Radomiro Tomic, Renan Fuentealba, and Jaime Castillo Velasco. We also share several points of view regarding the social movement with Manuel Bustos, the president of the National Union Coordinating Board; with Seguel himself, and with CODEJU [National Commission of Children's Rights]."

In the Right: "We also value the contribution of the Republican Right. I believe that based on their experience all those in the Right have convinced themselves that we are in a blind alley and they are willing to believe that the only way to solve this problem is for the people to recover their right to govern themselves. We are in agreement with all those in the Right who think like this."

To "all Chileans" "we would like this process to be increasingly more open since we are convinced that the only path is to lead Chile to a democracy."

[Question] But the only problem in this vast spectrum to return to democracy, is that there is no agreement on a fundamental issue: Which democracy? It is obvious that the democracy that you want to achieve is not the same democracy that the PC [Communist Party] and the MIR want to achieve, or the one that Hugo Zepeda from the Republican Right would want to achieve?

[Answer] Well, like in everything, nothing is white or black. Not everyone has the same views in this regard.

[Question] Is this not a problem for achieving your "great agreement"?

[Answer] Almeyda got ready for another "lecture." This time he began by explaining Athenian democracy "that had something of democracy although it was based on the great 'fault' of being based on the existence of slaves." He went on with "the democracy that existed even in the Middle Ages" and "with those other expressions of democracy that existed in the Renaissance the Reformation, and the French Revolution."

He concluded by noting: "That is, democracy, itself, is a thing that is constantly changing in content. There is no absolute democracy that is beyond time and that may be enforced at any time."

"So there is nothing strange in the fact that today we are confronting some disagreements in this regard. Today we are not interested in having discussions on democracy. What we are interested in are the three or four small matters on which there is agreement between the AD and the MDP: that the people recover their sovereignty, that human rights be respected; that a constituent assembly be elected; that a provisional government be established during the latter and for Chilean people to democratically choose their destiny immediately after this provisional government. There is consensus on these very simple ideas...."

[Question] But you must admit the fact that those people who are neither communists, Marxist, nor Leninists, do not accept you so simply. These people do not believe that you really want to establish a democracy...?

[Answer] I agree that these people do not believe this, and I believe that they are categorically mistaken.

[Question] Are you also aware that many of these people, or perhaps the majority, are members of the AD, to which you want to unite?

[Answer] Unfortunately this is so. There are many people who do not believe us, I do not know if there are many or few...I think this is very unfortunate and I believe this is one of the issues--but not the only one--that is impeding the AD from answering the call to achieve the great national agreement that was put forth by the MDP. The door is open, it is open and it will always be open.

[Question] And those who believe in and want to establish a democracy completely different to the one you propose will not walk through this door.

[Answer] I have already told you: if we speak of democratic utopias, we are talking about two completely different forms of democracy. But this is not the issue in question right now. What is now at stake are three or four issues on which we are in agreement.

[Question] That is for now, but for the future you are proposing an anti-democratic program.

[Answer] Why, in what sense?

[Question] Because you are promoting a proletarian dictatorship.

[Answer] No, not us. Look, now we are again entering the ideological field, the abstract...this question is senseless.

[Question] Do you think this question is senseless after we experienced 3 years of Popular Unity [UP] government in Chile?

[Answer] The UP did not mean that the proletarian dictatorship existed, that it was imminent or that it was proposed. On the contrary, at that time there was a vast display of liberals and even of licentiousness. Our conclusion

in this regard is that the developments at the time should not have been so terrible under the prevailing circumstances. People say "the UP, the communists, the proletarian dictatorship, and I do not know what else..." and that they are to blame for what happened.

[Question] In retrospect, do you think that there was too much freedom at the time?

[Answer] I think so. For example, there were newspapers that openly called on the armed forces to intervene in the government and to do what they did.

This was weakly controlled and in part this is the fault of the government and of the judicial branch. Therefore, it is completely uncalled for to compare the UP with a proletarian dictatorship. What was at stake at the time was not freedom but property. But there are people who believe that democracy, and freedom, is the consequence of property.

[Question] How do you view it?

[Answer] We believe it should be completely the opposite. We believe that while there is private ownership of the means of production it will be a restriction on freedom. But this is a restriction that we admit that we cannot eradicate by decree because the transformation of the right to property is a complicated process.

[Question] But you insist on that point, despite the criticism from other Socialists who are "rethinking" the issue. One of them has said in Chile that "the belief that Socialism is equivalent to nationalizing the productive apparatus is no longer valid."

[Answer] Look, we do not endorse that belief either. We maintain that Socialization is a necessary though not sufficient condition for implementing Socialism. For example, a society in which the productive apparatus has been socialized because of bureaucratic reasons or because of an authoritarian decision, but in which the people continue to think in terms of the values of the middleclass, of individualism, of selfishness, and so forth, will not have become actually Socialist, yet. Thus, it isn't only a matter of socializing the productive apparatus if the people continue to think the same way....

[Question] Is that what happened with the UP [Popular Unity]?

[Answer] We did not socialize everything.

[Question] Three years were not enough....

[Answer] Look, that is not a very important factor either. Because you can nationalize a company, for example a bank, but if the company, as happened with the UP, remains just as the others with the only difference being that it is run by the state, not much has then changed. That was a way to begin the process. But I believe that we made quite serious mistakes from the ideological viewpoint. We attached little importance to the ideological change, to the

belief that should go hand in hand with the struggle. And, in addition, the effects of our mistakes will be felt for a considerable time because this is very long and difficult process. A Socialist regime cannot be considered to be consolidated if it has not reached a certain level of ideological strength.

[Question] According to your analysis, the project of Salvador Allende was a failure from the very beginning, because that ideological strength to which you are referring did not exist, since the majority were against it.

[Answer] It did not exist, but we had made substantial progress. We should have continued moving forward.

[Question] But you had only 3 years.

[Answer] And how do you know that? We cannot discuss what was to happen during those 3 years.... Now, I insist that this is a complex process that is born out of the struggle. Even more, the potentialities of Socialism can only be displayed at a universal level. There is great interdependence between what happens in one country and in another one.... No country can expect to implement Socialism by itself. And we, a small country with 10,000,000 people could not have successfully become a Socialist society. This process takes a long time. No. We wanted to create an advanced democratic system, that is, the basis for Socialism.

[Question] But some sectors evidently tried to go too fast.

[Answer] Oaleurse, that always happens. There are always people who want to go...faster.

[Question] Among them the MIR [Movement of the Revolutionary Left] which has again sided with you?

[Answer] Yes, I believe that at that time the MIR wanted to go faster than the situation prevailing in the country would allow. But since things are not static, we believe that everything changes.

[Question] Does that mean that the MIR has changed?

[Answer] Yes, I believe that the MIR has changed and has achieved maturity, the same way we ourselves have. Even some people within our own party have adopted the MIR attitude....

[Question] Like Carlos Altamirano?

Almeyda refused to give an opinion on the Altamirano of yesterday and the Altamirano of today, the "ultra" and the "almost Social-democrat," who was a close friend of his, who was his classmate at the Liceo Aleman, and who was his personal convert to Socialism....

But he did speak about his fellow Socialist Party members who during the UP term sped up the process beyond the limit and who now, in contact with the European reality, have learned a moderate and surprising language.

[Answer] "Look, do you know what happens? I believe that the sectors that support the most extreme positions are always the most immature ones, because they are driven mainly by feelings. Therefore, as their extreme position is not the product of reason, they are more likely to adopt a 180 degree change and take the other side when they realize that they were wrong. This has happened not only with highly radicalized Socialists but also with those "overly ultraradical" Christian sectors who gave us a lot of trouble and who have now adopted quite moderate positions. It is the law of the pendulum."

[Question] What is it that you tried to accomplish during the 3 years of the UP and failed to finish?

[Answer] A process which would have probably lasted many more years.

[Question] However, even you have changed. You used to belong to the calmer sectors who wanted to stop the "ultras" and now you sit side by side with the communists and the MIR and do not rule out violent solutions for Chile.

[Answer] No. Look here, this "violent option" thing must be examined at two levels. Mainly because this is one of the subjects which the enemies, among which is EL MERCURIO, want to bring out and display. Morally speaking not only we communists, but also the Socialists, the members of the MIR and the Christians follow an ideology outlined by St Thomas Aquinas in the 13th century: the right to resist oppression. Carlos Briones, by the way, wrote his memoirs on the subject. This means that when a government is not legitimate there is no need to respect it. This means that we all agree on the theoretical, ideological aspects.

[Question] I am talking about violence as a method.

[Answer] That is something else. If a government is illegitimate and one is entitled to fight it with the very same methods it uses to repress the people, then timeliness, method, and so forth are subject to discussion and disagreements, and not only between the AD and the MDP. But these are not disagreements on principals. I would say that they are tactical disagreements.

[Question] Let us see, from what you are saying, may I conclude that you advocated some type of violence to oust the government?

[Answer] No, I am not advocating anything. All I am saying is that it seems to me that the people, their organizations are at work, testing, seeking and using the best possible means to attain the final goal.

[Question] And what about as secretary general, do you advocate some method?

[Answer] Whichever turns out to be the best and yield the necessary results.

Look here, this is a multifaceted struggle.... Now, I know that the enemy wants to get us into this mess...and we will not allow this to happen.

[Question] You got into this mess all by yourselves when you announced that you did not rule out any means.

[Answer] Well, it is true, we do not rule out any means. We never have and never will. I am telling you that this is coming down all the way from St Thomas Aquinas.

[Question] But you do not spend your time talking about St Thomas Aquinas. You draw guidelines, issue instructions.

[Answer] What are we talking about? We are talking about strikes and protests. That is what we are talking about. We cannot even foresee the course the protests may take because they are spontaneous.

[Question] What about the terrorist actions that take place in Chile?

[Answer] What do you call a terrorist action?

[Question] Mayor Urzua's death, for example.

[Question] In my opinion that was a mistake.

[Question] MIR's mistake?

[Answer] I do not believe that it was a MIR mistake. My impression is that the MIR claimed credit for something it had not done.

[Question] But some leftist group did?

[Answer] Of course...events of this kind have always taken place throughout the world under similar circumstances. We are not terrorists. We are not terrorists because we believe that in the end terrorism does not yield positive results. Furthermore, you have told me that I am a follower of Lenin, I accept this and tell you that Lenin strongly opposed terrorism as a method.

[Question] Well, then which are the official guidelines that you provide for actions inside the country?

[Answer] Our current official guidelines are basically in keeping with the behavior of the joint organizations which we have established at rank and file levels, especially the National Workers Command. All recent activities of the MDP and the AD have been carried out within the framework of guidelines and directives issued by the National Workers Command. We believe that our position is fully reflected by the actions of Rodolfo Seguel, for example.

CSO: 3348/431

BRIEFS

EGYPT BREAKS DIPLOMATIC TIES--On 21 April the "Jerusalem Committee," made up of the foreign ministers of 15 Arab nations, urged all Islamic countries to break off relations with Costa Rica and El Salvador for having moved their embassies from Tel Aviv to "the holy city." Egypt was the first country to break off relations with El Salvador and Costa Rica and withdrew its diplomats from the Salvadoran capital. Carlos Jose Gutierrez, the Costa Rican foreign minister, stated that his country will keep its embassy in Jerusalem in spite of the Islamic nations' threat to break off ties. [Text] [San Jose LA NACION INTERNACIONAL in Spanish 26 Apr-2 May 84 p 3]

CSO: 3248/663

U.S. DRUG POLICY CALLED INEFFECTIVE, HYPOCRITICAL

Marijuana Growing Called Unstoppable

Havana GRANMA in Spanish 9 Apr 84 p 2

[Article by Roberto Alvarez Quinones: "Tip of the Iceberg: Marijuana Third Most Important Crop in the United States"]

[Text] It is said that a smart dealer advised the American who made the formula for the soft drink Coca Cola: Bottle it and you will see!

Of course, it was not just a matter of filling a few bottles with that liquid and--voila! A fortune! That only happens in fairy tales or Hollywood movies. It was necessary to invest money in equipment, machinery, raw materials and... workers who would be the ones who would finally produce the soft drink and would enrich the well-advised magnate with the profits he would wrest from them day after day.

Now similar advice is being given in the United States. For example, if an industrialist complains that his business is not going well and, at the same time, he is astonished at how the drug traffic including cocaine and marijuana is flourishing, he can listen to a friend: Grow it or buy it and you will see!

Even though it is hard to believe, "profits from drug traffic substantially surpass the profits of most industries in the United States," according to Steven Schlesinger, director of the Office of Statistics of the Justice Department, in a report released last 26 February.

The marijuana crop (almost \$20 billion in 1983) is the third most important crop in the United States now after corn and soybean. A man named George Farnham, national director of an organization that advocates legalization of marijuana cultivation and use, has demonstrated this statistically.

Farnham is very enthusiastic about his project after he discovered that almost 50 percent of the crop of that toxic grass is grown on land belonging to the U.S. Government. This man advocating legalization of marijuana argues that if that crop is legalized, "more than \$10 billion could be collected in sales tax and billions more could be saved in costs from applying the law." Farnham stated that illegal cultivation of marijuana in the United States is practically

unstoppable. Also as long as the dealers in the marijuana market have more money than the agents who should stop them, corruption will continue to be a serious problem in that country.

Farnham hit on a touchy subject: the growing complicity between drug traffickers and authorities. Almost daily there are cases in the press of government officials, judges or policemen caught in the act or accused of ties to Mafia drug trafficking. The Mafia, of course, does not skimp in paying very generously for such valuable services.

Generosity comes easily to the traffickers for the simple reason that this Mafia took in more than \$90 billion in 1983, according to conservative estimates. In other words, the total value of drug sales in the United States is 45 times the gross national product of Honduras or 30 times that of Bolivia.

Such a fabulous sum of money leads to many things. FBI agent Lawrence Gould who was supposed to pursue drug traffickers was indicted in New York because he had assembled an entire network of policemen to whom he supplied cocaine. They caught him when he sold 42 grams to a policeman who doublecrossed him.

The U.S. attorney general (minister of justice) himself, William French Smith, reported a few weeks ago that "in one city" whose name he did not want to reveal, the police chief, the sheriff and a state judge were "surprised" in drug trafficking.

These and other authorities are only the visible tip of a gigantic iceberg whose true magnitude would astonish many people.

The massive use of drugs in the United States has reached such dimensions that it is the number-one criminal problem in the country in the opinion of Attorney General Smith (whom Reagan plans to replace with Edwin Meese).

The rate at which drug use is growing, especially among youths, is alarming. It unequivocally expresses the decadence of the social and ethical values generated by the way of life which U.S. propaganda has always praised so highly.

Figures supplied by the attorney general last February revealed that Americans consumed four times more cocaine in the first 9 months of 1983 than in all of 1981. The National Institute on Drug Abuse stated that one out of every three U.S. adults has used some type of drug illegally, mainly marijuana.

Budget Cuts Criticized

Havana GRANMA in Spanish 18 Apr 84 p 2

[Article by Roberto Alvarez Quinones: "U.S. Marijuana Crop, Reagan Administration and 'Blind Eye'"]

[Text] The old saying that there is no one blinder than one who does not want to see is very wise. There are also sayings about a blind eye or about being crazy as a loon.

These are generally used when someone denies something that is an irrefutable reality or when he acts like he does not know something...that he knows perfectly well.

In the United States today, things occur that automatically evoke such popular sayings. The government says it is very concerned about the unstoppable increase in drug traffic and use, dramatically confiscates drugs smuggled into the country but barely shows any sign of life concerning the enormous green fields of marijuana thriving from coast to coast in the United States. That toxic grass is now the third most important crop in the United States after corn and soybean.

A similarly suspicious blind eye is turned toward the evidence that there are surprises in this fabulous drug traffic within the United States: well structured million-dollar connections between the Mafia and the authorities.

Not even the most naive of the naive could accept that an administration that launches spaceships, satellites and pilotless spy planes and deploys the most sophisticated technology to spy on socialist countries and governments not in Washington's good graces is incapable of detecting the immense green fields of marijuana that thrive everywhere. It is an open secret that in California, for example, the marijuana fields are particularly productive due to the advanced agrotechnology used there. This means that California marijuana has a stronger effect on addicts than marijuana produced in other countries. Other U.S. states are following its example.

Meanwhile, the most important mass media in the country provide statistics and color photographs of marijuana fields. The magazine NEWSWEEK recently did a major report with photographs of U.S. marijuana fields, private laboratories for the genetic development of that grass, etc.

However, the Reagan administration "does not see" these fields. When pressured by circumstances, it "detects" some and sprays a little of an herbicide called paraquat. However, if I saw you, I don't remember.

The lack of desire--to call it something--of the current U.S. Government to act against domestic marijuana growers (compared to the touted confiscations of marijuana and other drugs from abroad) has caused some U.S. celebrities to state that it seems as if the government, instead of combatting the general use of marijuana, in practice tries to protect the national production of that drug. Marijuana causes great physical, mental, social, moral and even economic harm to the American people.

According to studies by several private institutions, some 40 million Americans now smoke marijuana. The government states that 20 percent of the marijuana consumed in the United States is harvested in that country but everyone knows the percentage is much higher.

As to other drugs, the dizzying increase of the use of cocaine has been the most notorious. Official statistics reveal that Americans used almost four times more cocaine in 1983 than in the previous year. Francis Mullen, director

of the Office for the Fight Against Drugs, reported recently that some 12 million Americans use cocaine today. About 5,000 do it for the first time each day.

The use of the hallucinogen LSD is also increasing--after having declined in the 1970's--as is the use of heroin.

Facing such a dangerous increase in drug use in an election year, the Reagan administration swears that it will do everything in its power to fight this phenomenon. It is upset when reminded--as Charles Rangel, chairman of the Committee on Drugs of the House of Representatives, did--that this administration eliminated \$14 million from the federal budget allocated for a squadron of airplanes to intercept drug contraband while it authorized \$18.5 million to change the curtains and carpeting and redecorate offices in the Treasury Department that the friend of his friend, Donald Regan, heads.

As to the flourishing U.S. marijuana crop: out of sight, out of mind. Loons, "crazy" or not, don't talk.

U.S. Drug Use Profiled

Havana GRANMA in Spanish 19 Apr 84 p 2

[Article by Roberto Alvarez Quinones: "American Pinocchio, Little Red Ridinghood Books Filled with Cocaine, Syndrome of Decadence"]

[Text] The famous Italian writer Collodi (Lorenzini) or the French author Perrault could never have imagined that Pinocchio and Little Red Ridinghood, their nice children's characters, could be used someday for abominable ends.

But anything can happen in the United States. Recently beautiful colored books of Pinocchio and Little Red Ridinghood were seized by federal authorities at different Chicago post offices because several million dollars worth of cocaine were hidden in their covers. Undercover postal agents arrested nine men and eight women who came to pick them up.

Some days later, a gang of 30 drug traffickers was captured in Atlanta, Georgia. In 16 months they had handled 5 tons of cocaine valued at \$3.8 billion. It was said that 50 other mafiosos belonging to that same gang had not been captured and were scattered throughout the country. Only 1,300 kilograms of the 5 tons were confiscated. The other 3,700 kilograms went to millions of drug addicts who paid about \$3 billion for that cocaine.

One of the surprises that some businessmen in Los Angeles are preparing as side attractions to the coming Olympic games was 285 kilograms of cocaine (valued at almost \$100 million). It was jealously guarded for sale during the Olympics in that California city.

These are only a few elements, taken at random, that express the seriousness of a phenomenon that afflicts the United States: the incessant and pronounced increase in drug traffic and use in that largest and richest nation of the West, the citadel of contemporary capitalism.

The increase in the number of drug addicts is alarming. Conservative figures show that one out of every three U.S. adults has used some drug illegally. It is having a dramatic impact on all segments of the U.S. population, especially the youths.

Last February the U.S. Drug Institute announced that two out of every three high school seniors in that country have used drugs at least once. It also reported that 42 percent of those students smoked marijuana regularly in 1983.

The drug mania is even spreading to sectors not permeated before by that vice.

Recently three Kansas City baseball players in the so-called major leagues were indicted for using cocaine. The situation is scandalous in the armed forces. One survey of young recruits showed that 49 percent of the sailors, 42 percent of the army, 34 percent of the "Marines" and 17 percent of the air force personnel regularly use drugs while on duty.

The use of cocaine, marijuana, hashish and different hallucinogens by employees who work in nuclear plants is becoming a subject of concern in the top circles of the Reagan administration. This danger leaked out to the public when 30 employees, including three security guards, at the Devil's Canyon nuclear plant in San Luis Obispo, California, were arrested at the end of last year for selling cocaine and other drugs in that nuclear plant which employs 8,800 people.

Cocaine is traditionally "aspirated" through the nose. In the United States now, it is increasingly administered by injections in the vein or smoking this product derived from the coca plant. These new methods increase the effectiveness of the drug which affects the brain and produces a heightened sense of acuity and happiness.

TIME magazine commented some time ago that the use of cocaine is becoming "stylish" in the U.S. middle class: lawyers, businessmen, bankers, bureaucrats, politicians, policemen and judges. It is estimated that about 60 metric tons of cocaine valued at some \$40 billion are consumed in the United States each year.

Meanwhile, the magazine NEWSWEEK stated that the use of drugs by employees during working hours means a loss to the U.S. economy of at least \$26 billion a year. This is broken down into \$16 billion for the loss of productivity of drug addicts, \$2 billion for medical expenses and \$8 billion for costs related to crime. The magazine stated that in Silicon Valley (high technology industrial complex) in California at least a ton of cocaine is consumed per year. In the state of Florida, drug use at some work sites is "as common as the coffee break."

Therefore, those who, in spite of Reagan's efforts to present the United States as the ideal society, state that the growing use of drugs in that country is one more facet of the syndrome of decadence in the American way of life are not mistaken.

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CSO: 3248/626

MINISTER OF JUSTICE PREVIEWS SYMPOSIUM ON LAW, IDEOLOGY

Havana BOHEMIA in Spanish No 16, 20 Apr 84 pp 46-48

[Interview with Dr Juan Escalona Reguera, minister of justice and member of the Central Committee of the party, by Reinaldo Penalver Moral at minister's office: "Revolutionary Loyalty, Better Technical Preparation"; date not given]

[Text] The need to contribute to the technical improvement of jurists and greater political and ideological development for them plus the important agreements adopted by the Politburo of our party have led to the First Scientific Symposium on politics and ideology as related to law. It will be held in the Palacio de Convenciones in this capital from 20 to 22 September 1984.

It has been convoked by the National Union of Cuban Lawyers and the Ministry of Justice as a salute to the 31st anniversary of the historic brief by Fidel, "La historia me absolvera" [History Will Absolve Me]. Some 300 delegates of the 14 provinces and the special municipality Isle of Youth will attend along with some 40 Cuban and foreign guests. This event is part of the program of measures to guarantee the 1984 socioeconomic objectives and is one of the main objectives of the 8th Plenum of the Central Committee as part of the program for the political and ideological advancement of jurists.

This campaign has already begun since the event is only 5 months away. Because of its complexity, it requires great efforts in organization and preparation of the papers to be presented. BOHEMIA held an exclusive interview with Dr Juan Escalona Reguera, member of the Central Committee of our party and minister of justice, since he is chairman of the National Organizing Committee.

Asked about the significance of holding this symposium during the 25th year of the triumph of the revolution, Dr Escalona revealed:

"We give great significance to this First Scientific Symposium on politics and ideology as related to law not only because of the rich and fruitful debate and exchange of ideas that it will provide and the magnificent papers that will be discussed but also--what we feel is more important--because we conceive of the symposium as a 'detonator' to promote broader participation by our jurists and start us off on the necessary road to study, advancement and the systematic investigation of law.

"In Cuba we have an inexhaustible Mambisa and revolutionary legal tradition embodied in people like Carlos Manuel de Cespedes, Ignacio Agramonte and Jose Marti in the past century and in comrade Fidel Castro now. There is also a valuable treasure of experiences and knowledge that must be used to fulfill the objectives of socialist development.

"Today more than ever, the work of our legal profession must be improved as was emphasized in the agreements adopted by the Politburo of our party and later repeated in the resolutions of the 6th and 8th Plenum of the Central Committee and in the program of measures to fulfill the 1984 socioeconomic objectives. These decisions have presented the need for a new stage in legal practice in our country. This has been taken up by the jurists with labor and revolutionary enthusiasm.

"Every true revolution always goes through a stage in which a given structure and law must be overcome. This even leads to a certain habit of not respecting the law, always combined with lack of the necessary attention to the professional training of jurists and their adequate preparation. These situations are revealed now in various results like: delays in the functioning of the Economic Management and Planning System due to poor legal advice at different levels; poor quality of judicial work; and noticeable effect on legal service to the people.

"The need for complete fulfillment of socialist legality and the creation of legislative norms adapted to our material conditions of socialist development are on the agenda. The main emphasis of our work must lie in this direction. We also know that the role of the jurist transcends the national scope since our revolution is active in international events. Also we have to confront bourgeois legal ideology and be carriers of our ideology. We can state that the growing political, ideological, technical and scientific advancement acquires exceptional value under socialism.

"We believe that now when our triumphant revolution celebrates a quarter of a century of existence, when we have traveled a fruitful road of socialist construction, we are in the position to critically judge the decrepit bourgeois legal order established during the neocolonial republic, evaluate revolutionary law in the process of institutionalization of our socialist state and, based on it, plan the legal improvement of the country in the immediate future, supported on its Marxist-Leninist bases, revolutionary loyalty and better technical preparation."

[Question] "Law in the construction of socialism" is the main topic of the symposium. What can you tell us about this?

[Answer] The law like the state is a historic category; both are institutions that respond to the interests of the dominating class. Therefore, capitalism imposes its system of exploitation, social injustice and humiliation of the peoples. This situation is only changed by the establishment of socialism.

To Marxism-Leninism, socialist law as a system of legal norms sanctioned by the state and of obligatory fulfillment by all citizens constitutes an

expression of the will of the working class in alliance with the peasants and other manual and intellectual workers. These norms act preventively on the conduct of the people, establishing and developing real social relations aimed at guaranteeing the interests of each member of society, establishing their rights and duties and educating the masses in the fulfillment of the legal norms adopted, in the name of the people, by the state organs, representatives of the political domination of the proletariat.

We note that the new nature of law under socialism is directed at educating the masses in the knowledge of and respect for socialist legality and preventing violations. In the construction of socialism in Cuba, a world of accomplishments in the legal field opens up. Of course, it does not exclude the real possibility that there are negative phenomena that hurt the interests of society and that the capitalist past persists in the conscience and conduct of some residual minorities of that society.

In its first phase, the socialist society still reveals habits, conduct and customs of the old society in several aspects of its social development. It is necessary to eliminate these through a sustained fight against all those manifestations of bourgeois ideology and morality, using education, prevention, repression and reeducation. We are constructing socialist law but, unfortunately, some concepts of bourgeois law still exist in its application. We do not always remember that it is necessary to analyze the causes and conditions of an act, taking into consideration the conduct of the perpetrators since development is unequal in nature, society and philosophy. This cannot be confused with petit-bourgeois egalitarianism, often poorly used.

The jurists must hold better defined class positions by committing themselves to the political ideology of the proletariat. They are called upon to become energetic and conscientious fighters for the new society. As comrade Fidel said in his report to the First Party Congress: "The communist conscience is not the automatic product of social transformations. It is necessary to forge it day after day through the living experience of the class struggle, through political education and through national and international information." Therefore, we must use law as a driving force for the ideology of the working class.

[Question] What can you tell us about the broad list of topics proposed for debate?

[Answer] The main topic of the event summarizes it all. However, we wanted a list of topics that would guide writing the papers on those questions that, in our opinion, have basic importance. Then we will select the best paper on each one of the 15 topics selected for the symposium. Naturally, the proposed topics are not rigid since the papers can cover the broadest legal activity, emphasizing the political and ideological aspects.

During the interview that took place in the minister's office, we could appreciate once more the simplicity and spontaneity that characterize our top leaders, expressing their opinions or viewpoints inherent to the development of our society.

We asked for a brief report on the topics suggested for the symposium. Dr Escalona stated:

"The topics suggested are: 1) socialist legality in the construction of the new society; 2) the Cuban judicial system; 3) the exercise of socialist democracy; 4) the Communist Party of Cuba as superior guiding force of the society and the state; 5) basic rights, duties and guarantees; 6) criminal law in Cuba; 7) treatment of minors with behavioral problems; 8) international law and its role in foreign relations; 9) property law under socialist; 10) "La historia me absolvera"; 11) legal-economic relations; 12) labor law in the current stage of our society; 13) law and protection of the family in the new society; 14) legal advice to state organisms, organs and enterprises; and 15) the role of law in the formation of a socialist conscience."

The minister of justice emphasized: "As can be seen, the work objectives are really ambitious. This will put our legal profession to test."

[Question] What criterion was followed for the organization of the symposium?

[Answer] A National Organizing Committee was formed. In addition to the National Union of Cuban Lawyers and the Ministry of Justice which convoked the symposium, other legal institutions of the country are also represented on it: the Supreme People's Tribunal, the Attorney General's Office, the National State Arbitration Organ, the School of Law of the University of Havana, the National Organization of Group Law Offices and many organisms of the central state administration as well as the chairmen of the provincial organizing committees. Other jurists are on support committees or will collaborate in different tasks. In short, we don't want anyone to feel excluded from this First Scientific Symposium of Cuban jurists. We will also have the honor and pleasure of having a group of distinguished and prestigious jurists from other countries, especially the socialist bloc and our America, attend.

We propose that the symposium meet in full assembly so that all those attending can participate in the debates. We plan to distribute the papers selected to all the delegates in enough time so that they can study them and prepare for the discussion. Therefore, the presenter will only make a brief presentation of the topic and one or two official commentators previously designated will speak. Then debate by those attending will begin. These processes will be under the direct attention of a moderator.

As has been announced, some 300 delegates proportionally distributed among all the provinces of the country will attend. Last February all the mechanism for the symposium began to function. We want to point out that even if they do not participate as a delegate to the event--since it is materially impossible to include the more than 5,000 jurists in the country--we exhort all the legal profession to be involved one way or another in this activity.

[Question] One last question, comrade minister: Why have you linked the celebration of this event with the 31st anniversary of "La historia me absolvera"?

[Answer] "La historia me absolvera" constitutes the first political program of the revolution, mainly based on the glorious epic of our people. It was no

accident that Marti was the intellectual author of the attack on Moncada barracks. That program was drawn up based on the laws that govern social development with profound conviction in the significance of the class struggle and the need for the participation of the masses in social changes. It is valuable as philosophy and as an exceptional legal brief in which Fidel acts as accuser of a regime that tried to judge him.

"La historia me absolvera" constitutes a milestone and is the summarized expression of what the revolution aspired to. With the triumph of 1 January, this became beautiful reality. It confirms once more how right Fidel was when he said in his historic brief: "To those who call me a dreamer because of this, I say as Marti did: /The real man does not look to see on which side he would live better but on which side duty lies. That is the only practical man whose dream of today will be the law of tomorrow. Anyone who has looked to the core of the universe and seen the peoples seethe, burning and bloody in the trough of centuries, knows that the future lies on the side of duty without any exception/ [in boldface]."

Three decades after that historic event, the problems of the earth, industrialization, housing, unemployment, education and the health of the people are a significant part today of the extraordinary revolutionary work. Therefore, it is impossible to write about the importance of law in the socialist construction without considering the exceptional value of that brilliant brief.

Dr Escalona concluded: "Our daily work is one good way to pay just homage and remembrance to the martyrs who began that feat and to all who have given their lives for the cause of justice, independence and liberty and all those who have held on high the battle flags of our people."

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CSO: 3248/639

LOCAL RESIDENT REPORTS ABANDONED AVIATION EQUIPMENT

Havana GRANMA in Spanish 5 Apr 84 p 3

[Article by Alberto Rodriguez Fernandez; for related item on requests for constructive criticism, see JPRS LAM 84-041, 2 Apr 84, p 55]

[Text] "A Vuelta de Correo" devotes its space to the workers and union organizations that write to us or telephone us to reveal what has been poorly done or well done, ask for guidelines, offer suggestions or request information. Write to Seccion A Vuelta de Correo, Apartado 6187, La Habana, or telephone 70-8265.

Jose Marti: "Criticizing is not backbiting...criticizing is pointing out the blemish with noble intent and, with a merciful hand, dispelling the shadow that obscures beautiful work."

Members of the Santiago de las Vegas PNR [National Revolutionary Police] Unit made an unusual discovery last Thursday along the Varona road at Kilometer 3.5 in the capital district of Capdevila in Boyeros.

On a bank among grass and weeds, they found five large wooden boxes full of parts apparently for airplanes. They still contained the import documents, packing and paper wrapping.

The case was reported to the PNR by a woman who lives near the new National Zoo. She also reported that the materials were abandoned there about 15 days ago.

Capt Emilio Brito and Jesus Pita, police expert, went to the site which is isolated with few houses. They told "A Vuelta de Correo" that the crates had evidently been "cannibalized" and part of their contents was strewn around the place where wood parts of a sixth box were found.

They added that preliminary investigations showed that the crates appeared there one day without the residents seeing or hearing the heavy equipment that had to have transported them there.

After the boxes were moved by the Santiago de las Vegas PNR Unit and at its request, specialists from the Jose Marti international airport confirmed Friday that the parts were for airplanes but do not belong to that entity.

From the writing on the crates and the documentation found inside, they determined that they are imported parts for major repairs to airplanes.

The writing on the crates and their numbers (2, 14, 15, 64 and 119) lead one to believe that they are part of a large shipment.

With some of the documentation obtained and after consulting a foreign trade specialist, "A Vuelta de Correo" was able to establish that the equipment was shipped by the Soviet Aviaexport Enterprise to the Cuban Aviaimport through contract No. 76/407-2-6710.

One of the documents is the passport--with registration No. 070501033--that usually accompanies any imported equipment with different technical specifications. It states that the lot left the factory on 3 June 1977.

The PNR investigators indicated that, other than the airport, there is no other office in Boyeros that is involved with aviation. How did these heavy boxes get there? Who answers for these circumstances?

PHOTO CAPTIONS

1. p 3. The boxes contain a lot of this equipment, a type of electrical feed system for engines, all with factory packing and wrapping.
2. p 3. Partial view of the equipment found. Inside other smaller boxes with brand-new parts for repairs as well as gaskets, hoses and other accessories.

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SPRING CANE PLANTING BEHIND SCHEDULE

Havana GRANMA in Spanish 20 Apr 84 p 3

[Article by Juan Varela Perez]

[Text] Spring cane planting is not about to begin yielding good results. By the end of April, the country should have 4,547.2 caballerias planted. As of 18 April, only 2,834 caballerias had been planted.

With only a few workdays left in the month, this 64 percent of the plan means another lack of fulfillment that would compromise the already difficult May planting program even more.

Ciego de Avila is the only province that shows a favorable balance with 96 percent and more than 500 caballerias planted. They have taken great advantage of the wet conditions that have prevailed since almost the beginning of the year.

Camaguey (83 percent) and Las Tunas (84 percent) are within the acceptable range. Granma (27 percent), Santiago de Cuba (38 percent) and Sancti Spiritus (52 percent) are considered critical.

Holguin (56 percent), Villa Clara (57 percent) and Matanzas (58 percent) are still far from the plan.

This slowness that accumulates makes an average rate of 134 caballerias per day necessary. Actually only a rate of 40 is achieved.

The spring campaign (first half of the year) covers 14,611.5 caballerias. Already 100 percent of those lands are in process although not all the provinces have achieved that like Camaguey, Sancti Spiritus and Matanzas.

According to reports, there are 2,430 caballerias prepared--that is, ready to receive the seeds. That would cover what the country needs to plant before 30 April.

The fulfillment of the January-June program is essential, decisive, for the 1985 harvest and future ones.

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ONE MUNICIPALITY ACHIEVES 'MODEL' PRESS DISTRIBUTION

Havana GRANMA in Spanish 17 Apr 84 p 3

[Article by Raisa Pages]

[Text] In Santa Cruz del Norte in Havana Province, there is one press distribution stand for every 2,500 inhabitants and 4,462 periodicals are sold daily. Based on potential readers--over 10 years of age--every 4.5 people receive a periodical.

These conditions are part of the requirements that this municipality met in order to be proclaimed yesterday the first in the country to be a Model in press distribution. The Ministry of Communications develops this movement in response to the guidelines of the 8th Plenum of the Central Committee and the Report from the most recent session of the National People's Government Assembly.

Pedro Guelmes, member of the Central Committee and minister of communications, presented the certificate as Model Municipality to Ernesto Bolufer, president of the municipal people's government assembly in Santa Cruz del Norte.

Workers from different sectors of this territory that covers 376.2 square kilometers and has 25,260 inhabitants attended the ceremony held in the theater of the capital city of Santa Cruz del Norte.

The requirements in this movement--read by Rafael Valdes, head of the Commercial Press Department of Havana, during the ceremony--are as follows: have a municipal distributor; have at least one newsstand for every 5,000 urban inhabitants with appropriate conditions; have the subscription distribution plan applied through mail carriers in urban zones; and not have unattended rural areas, using existing post offices.

Valdes reported that there are 10 newsstands, three rural mail carriers and five postal agents in Santa Cruz del Norte. In 1981 2,000 periodicals were left unsold. Already this year with a double allocation (4,462), none remains in the stands. Also more than 45 different titles of national publications and 35 from other countries are sold.

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ARAFAT SENDS MESSAGE OF THANKS FOR SOLIDARITY

Havana GRANMA in Spanish 11 Apr 84 p 3

[Letter from Yasser Arafat, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, to Rene Rodriguez Cruz, ICAP president, and Minister Levi Farah]

[Text] Comrade Rene Rodriguez Cruz
President, Cuban Institute of Friendship with Peoples

Comrade Minister Levi Farah
President, Association for Cuban-Arab Friendship

Revolutionary greetings:

I greatly appreciated your message of solidarity with our Arab Palestinian people on the occasion of "Earth Day."

I thank you and reveal our deep pleasure in your firm positions in support of the struggle of our Arab people of Palestine for the recovery of their national and inalienable rights including their right to return, self-determination and the creation of their national independent state.

Our Palestinian people who celebrate "Earth Day" on 30 March reaffirm to everyone that they will remain firm in spite of all the Zionist and imperialist attempts at extermination. They will uphold our fatherland as well as our national and inalienable rights in spite of the waves of oppression and discrimination by Zionist authorities and in spite of the confiscation of land, theft and establishment of settlements on it.

Our people who celebrate this important national date also reaffirm to everyone that all the Zionist and imperialist developed war machinery and their infernal plans to confiscate our national rights cannot defeat the will of a heroic people in their just cause. They uphold their national rights and will make the greatest sacrifices, without letup, for their revolution and their national cause represented by the PLO, their only legitimate representative.

On that day our fighting people reaffirm their determination to continue their revolutionary march with a firm will until achieving victory and recovering their national rights in Palestine.

Finally, receive our revolutionary greetings and our deep admiration for your solidarity with the struggle of our Palestinian people. We wish you more accomplishments and more successes.

Revolution until victory.

Signed:

Yasser Arafat
Chairman, Executive Committee of the PLO
Commander in Chief of the Palestinian Revolution Forces

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TOBACCO PRODUCTION TERMED 'MAGNIFICENT'

Havana GRANMA in Spanish 2 Apr 84 p 1

[Article by Lucas Correoso Perez]

[Text] Pinar del Rio--Based on the volume and quality achieved, we can call tobacco production in the territory this year magnificent. There have been great efforts and great results, according to Orlando Lugo, alternate member of the Central Committee and first secretary of the party in this westernmost province, largest producer of the aromatic leaf in the country.

He added that so far we have harvested about 46 million poles [cujes] of tobacco and we hope to end the harvest with about 52 million, a considerable amount.

We can guarantee that the country will have the required tobacco. It has dried very well and it has outstanding quality. We will have a good quantity of fine leaf tobacco (for export and consumption). We have heard that Sancti Spiritus and Havana Provinces also have good tobacco production this year.

In Pinar del Rio a little more than 3,000 caballerias of tobacco of different varieties were planted by the state enterprises and the peasant sector. Of this, 80 caballerias were the tapado variety for leaves of exportable quality. For this last variety, measures of wage stimulation and work organization were applied to achieve stabilization of the required labor force through training, experience and quality. Also good results were achieved in the harvesting of poles of the so-called "libre pie" variety (for cigarettes) in the areas of inferior quality tobacco.

Thousands of workers and students (many from Havana City) have worked hard.

At this time the main task, even though the harvest is not over yet, focuses on grading tobacco (process that goes from harvesting to storing and semi-industrial processing).

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CSO: 3248/640

BRIEFS

TRADE TALKS WITH KUWAIT--To promote trade relations in the construction sector, talks began yesterday between delegations from Kuwait and Cuba at UNECA [Union of Caribbean Construction Enterprises] headquarters. Talal M. Al-Ghanim, president of the TAPCO enterprise of Kuwait, arrived yesterday as head of the visiting delegation. He was welcomed at the airport by Minister Levi Farah who heads the Cuban delegation. The TAPCO enterprise is in charge of contracting construction and will represent UNECA in Kuwait. The objectives presented by Mr Al-Ghanim included the formation of a joint enterprise to construct different projects in Kuwait and third countries, the sale of Cuban construction materials and the development of tourism from Kuwait to Cuba. The Kuwait delegation also includes engineer Adeel Al-Khawaja, general manager of that enterprise, Saad Abu Ajel, Sahle Sirak and other officials. [Text] [Havana GRANMA in Spanish 20 Apr 84 p 3] 7717

NEW AMBASSADOR TO MALDIVES--The Council of State has appointed comrade Olga Chamero Trias Cuban ambassador to the Republic of Maldives with residence in Colombo, Sri Lanka, where she holds the same position. [Text] [Havana GRANMA in Spanish 19 Apr 84 p 1] 7717

CSO: 3248/640

POLITICAL LEADERS VIEW OUTCOME OF PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS

Quito EL COMERCIO in Spanish 8 May 84 p A-3

[Text] Yesterday, leaders and former candidates of different parties spoke out on the results of the latest final elections in which the National Reconstruction Front team of Leon Febres Cordero and Blasco Penaherrera emerged triumphant.

The leaders and former candidates gave their opinions of the victory of the Social Christian presidential candidate, who will govern Ecuador from 10 August 1984 and 9 August 1988.

They recognized the victory of Febres Cordero and said that the people's will, expressed at the polls on Sunday, must be respected. They emphasized that the holding of these elections is a reaffirmation and consolidation of the democratic system in Ecuador.

The different opinions of the politicians and former candidates follow.

Francisco Huerta

Francisco Huerta, former presidential candidate and leader of the Democratic Party, expressed his profound satisfaction and that of his party over the culmination of a democratic phase of government in Ecuador and, beginning in August, the beginning of a new phase as the result of the people's will.

"We believe," he added, "that to some extent during this period, the Democratic Party made its determined civic contribution for the continuing existence of the country's democratic institutions, at a time when opportunism lurked in the shadows.

"Nevertheless," he emphasized, "that is now past and as we have always done, we underline the need to respect the people's will as expressed at the polls pointing out how dangerous it is -- to the point of harming democratic institutions -- to speak so casually of fraud.

"What happened yesterday," he said, "confirms beyond any doubt that the country has already freed itself from that vice of democracy, the rigging of results. However," he added, "we must continue to improve procedures so that there will

not even be room for suspicion. One noteworthy new ingredient is that we want to emphasize the possibility of submitting the positions of the different candidacies for debate. Beyond the polarization of certain communication media, it is valid to emphasize that access was given to the expression of the different candidates, using the most varied methods of consultation provided by the different media."

He added that this possibility must continue to be maintained as a basic democratic guarantee in the period about to begin.

"We hope," he said, "that the new government will have the most successful administration possible, summing up the will expressed by the candidacy.

"We hope," Huerta said, "that during the next four-year period, most Ecuadorians will have food, a roof over their heads and jobs. In other words, we hope that during the four years ahead, we shall not observe only a consolidation of the oligarchic powers, the concentration of monopolistic power, isolation in international politics, and so on. If this happens " he said, "we shall again be in a fight."

Angel Duarte

Guayaquil, 7 May--"I believe that in Ecuador, the people vote for men rather than for ideological trends," Dr Angel Duarte Valverde, former presidential candidate of the CFP [Concentration of Popular Forces], after learning the unofficial results of the Sunday elections, won by Leon Febres Cordero.

"The success enjoyed by the CFP in the January 1984 elections I would, without any modesty, label as extraordinary. It came after scarcely four intense months of campaigning and was due to the organization of a political party in which its candidates Guevara Moreno, first, and Assad Bucaram, second, were always involved."

Duarte maintained that when he was asked about the trend of those voting for him in January, he could say that there was warm sympathy for Febres Cordero.

"We voters continue to trust the sincerity, honesty and ability of our best men," he added.

He also said that if the victory of Febres Cordero is confirmed, it will have demonstrated a position of Ecuadorean voters who, beyond any treacherous rightist or leftist movements, want their new leaders to seek the best solutions to the extremely serious national problems. "These solutions, for the good of the republic and success of the newly-elected officials, must always be economically feasible and politically and socially timely," Duarte emphasized.

Finally, he expressed his desire that the winning candidate, upon taking office, leave aside sectarianism, passions and personal interests and realize that he has the legal and moral obligation of governing over 8 million Ecuadoreans.

Aquiles Rigail

Guayaquil, 7 May--Dr Aquiles Rigail Santistevan, vice presidential candidate for the Democratic Left-People, Change and Democracy coalition, labeled the victory of presidential candidate Leon Febres Cordero pyrrhic and said that his party will maintain critical vigilance during the early months of the presidential administration.

"We believe," Rigail said, "that there was no election defeat because 50 percent of the Ecuadorean people voted for the candidacies of the coalition I represent." According to Rigail, the election defeat is not a matter of numbers. Rather, the election defeat can be measured by the demagoguery manifested by the rightist candidacies that succeeded," he said, "in twisting the historic truth and leading the Ecuadorean people into error. We do not believe that the election was such a defeat. It is the people who triumphed because, first of all, they went to the polls in throngs to express their democratic will and second, those same people gave great backing to the candidacies of Rodrigo Borja and Aquiles Rigail with over 1.25 million votes. This means," Rigail emphasized, "that we have awakened a great collective awareness that will mean the definitive rise of the democratic tendencies of the center left from now on and the decline and final yielding of the political right, which may have obtained a final pyrrhic triumph, but which in the future will have no possibility of moving forward within the election context and the framework of popular support."

Rigail added that at no time should his words mean that he is a poor loser. On the contrary, he said that he has always believed that in defeat and victory, a man should always remain the same.

Wilfrido Lucero

The national president of the People's Democracy Wilfrido Lucero, said that the first great lesson the people of Ecuador have taught is that of contributing to the consolidation of democracy in the country and to its republican institutions. This is the most important step and the greatest lesson taught by the people on Sunday, meaning that from this standpoint, the results are secondary.

He stressed that the People's Democracy, as he announced at the time of the first balloting, has respected the people's will as expressed at the polls on 29 January and that it will now respect the sovereign pronouncement of that same people. He said that this is the democratic way and that is what should be most important for Ecuador.

He went on to state that it remains to be seen whether the results of the election are positive for the people. He said that "independentism" and regionalism still influence results, but that there are many other factors that have affected the ruling of the people in Sunday's elections. It is to be hoped, he said, that the winning candidate will not speak of election fraud.

Abdala Bucaram

Guayaquil, 7 May--The director of the Ecuadorean Roldosista Party, Abdala Bucaram, who is also mayor of the canton of Guayaquil, said that in the free democratic process, one had to recognize and accept the victory of Leon Febres Cordero, representing the Ecuadorean political right.

One must accept the victory and respect it, he said.

According to Abdala Bucaram, the pro-Febres Cordero campaign had been a dirty campaign in which his image (that of Abdala) and voice were used to hurt Dr Rodrigo Borja.

The director of the PRE indicated that he did not fear retaliations and did not believe that they would occur, considering that political enmities would interfere when different officials are working for Guayaquil.

However, he said, the PRE will take precautions and that he, as the leading municipal official, would require Febres Cordero to carry out his proposal of bread, housing and jobs, at least in this territorial district.

When asked whether his party would oppose the government of Febres Cordero, Abdala Bucaram said that he could express no opinion on the subject, for he does not yet know what Febres Cordero's attitude will be. However, the party will remain on the alert, he said.

Cecilia Calderon de Castro

Guayaquil, 7 May--Speaking on behalf of her party, Cecilia Calderon de Castro, national director of the FRA [Alfarist Radical Front], said: "For the good of the nation and our people, we hope that the government of Leon Febres Cordero can solve the problems afflicting everyone, that it will do its utmost to reactivate the national economy, that it will make an effort to moralize the administration of justice and public administration, that it will give priority to social programs enabling the poor people living in the suburbs and abandoned in rural areas to have access to health, housing and education."

The massive turnout for the election is a clear demonstration of their desire to live in a democracy guaranteeing them a dignified fulfillment of their vital needs, which means a mandate for Leon Febres Cordero to make every effort to keep his election promises, she said. In addition, the narrow margin of victory should cause him to meditate on the need to reconcile positions, programs and attitudes because he does not represent the mandate of only those who voted for him, but rather, of all Ecuadoreans, especially those without bread or roofs over their heads or jobs.

Concerning the future government, the FRA will maintain a position of critical and positive vigilance, meaning that "we shall support anything in keeping with national interests and the interests of the Ecuadorean people. We shall see that they keep their election promises and ensure that the hopes of the Ecuadorean people are not frustrated once again. We shall oppose anything that

might hurt the democratic aspirations of our people of having their fair share of the nation's wealth, and we shall oppose any legislation or government action helping the minority to the detriment of the majority.

"The defeat suffered by the candidacy of Dr Rodrigo Borja in Guayas is due to his identification with Abdala Bucaram, who is repudiated by the majority," he said.

Jorge Moreno

The national deputy director and deputy-elect for the MPD [Democratic People's Movement], Jorge Moreno, repeated that his party will maintain a line of total independence vis-a-vis the new government and at the coming national congress. He announced that on Saturday, top leaders of the MPD will meet in Guayaquil for the purpose of making an evaluation of the latest events and spelling out the party's chosen line in the immediate future.

When asked whether the MPD will declare its opposition to the new government at the meeting, Moreno said that it will continue to work for the good of the country and the people and emphasized that the opposition will depend on what the nation's new leader does.

If the government continues to bend to the International Monetary Fund, to devalue the currency and freeze wages, the people will have to continue to fight for their interests, he stressed. However, he stated that if, during the coming regime, measures are taken to help the majorities, "then it is unavoidable that the people and we along with them will have to support it."

Hector Solorzano

Guayaquil, 7 May--The national director of the Velasquista Party, Dr Hector Solorzano Constantine, said that the election process was carried out with absolute normality and that the results were the decision of a people that looks to the dawning of a better day and wants to have its most basic needs met.

He added that Leon Febres Cordero led the thrust of the people, the aspirations of the people. "My party gave its small contribution with respect to numbers, but it was spontaneous and sincere and its greatest desire is the revitalization of the Ecuadorean nation and the solution to the people's problems."

The director of the Velasquista Party added that the presence of his party in the National Reconstruction Front does not entail any bureaucratic commitment or the promise of any share in power.

Galo Pico

Conservative deputy Galo Pico expressed his satisfaction over the victory of the candidate of the National Reconstruction Front, noting that it was time that the people make their pronouncement.

After emphasizing that economically speaking, a new future is shaping up for Ecuador, "because the crisis continues to affect the people, although it is not reflected in the eyes of the current government, Pico said that the struggle is a hard one and that the new government will have to make a great effort, for it is an enormous responsibility that must be borne by the new lawmakers. But with these sacrifices, he said, "I believe that the Ecuadorean people will recognize their success on this occasion, electing the proper person to be president of the republic."

He said that the decline in inflation is encouraging, a process that could not be controlled completely by the current regime, but that must be controlled by the next government.

He noted that given the circumstances now experienced by the country, with the triumph of Ecuador and Leon Febres Cordero, coherent economic measures will have to be taken in the tax and banking fields, thus helping to gradually solve the economic crisis.

Pico said that the new government will comply with all promises made during the campaign, promises that came during the second election phase as a result of the need to express specific solutions to fight the problems of housing and unemployment that were part of the election slogan "Bread, Housing and Jobs." Everything will be done that was promised, following the schedules and procedures set up, he said.

Franklin Moreno

Guayaquil, 7 May--Franklin Moreno Quezada, head of the CID (Democratic Institutional Coalition), the political party that supported the presidential candidacy of Leon Febres Cordero, expressed his satisfaction over the results of the election in the following manner:

"The election results proclaiming Leon Febres Cordero to be president of the republic are in the interest of the Ecuadorean people because the people have chosen the man who proposed the best programs for overcoming the current crisis and for assuring all sectors of the population of their well-being. The CID made its civic contribution, convinced that our candidate was the best man to rebuild the country socially, economically, administratively and morally."

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CSO: 3348/421

FEBRES GETS VOTE OF CONFIDENCE FROM CONSERVATIVE LEADER

Quito EL COMERCIO in Spanish 9 May 84 p A-3

[Text] The general director of the country's conservatives, Jose Gabriel Teran Varea, has said that his party promoted the formation of a front and supported Leon Febres Cordero unconditionally and without any promises of rewards in the form of government posts.

"We are sure," he said, "that President Febres Cordero, seeking out the best Ecuadoreans, will have the cooperation of most political groups, which will be willing to contribute to the task of national reconstruction."

In addition, Teran Varea noted that for his party, the pronouncement of the voters implies various fundamental definitions.

The Ecuadorean country and people, he added, have spoken out for the confirmation of their Christian, Western and libertarian principles.

He said that they have made a decision concerning ideas of far-reaching importance and that the voters have said "No" to atheism and "No" to materialism.

He went on to add that the country has spoken out for the existence of freedoms, free enterprise, and a well-ordered economic system, based on those freedoms. It has said "No" to nationalization, to limitations, to the predominion over and absorption of the individual by the state.

Teran Varea noted that the people had also given their word of faith in a model of development that can be applied while preserving freedoms.

In addition, he indicated, it was a definition of principles in the sense that Ecuador is not willing to enter the orbit of Cuba, Sandinist Nicaragua and the Salvadoran revolution.

"We are confident that Leon Febres Cordero will solve the most basic problems of the poorest people within a framework of peace and order. Finally, it is most encouraging for the country that the victory of last Sunday is determined by the vote of the poorest people and the vote of young people, the hope of better days for the country."

PSD EXPLAINS ELECTION STAND

Guatemala City PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish 6 May 84 p 6

[Text] The Democratic Socialist Party (PSD) has released a manifesto in which it sets forth its position on the country's political situation. After reviewing the party's struggle since its conception, it discusses the conditions under which it could take part in elections and examines the significance of the new constitution and the factors on which true social peace is based.

The document begins by saying that the PSD "seeks to build a democratic society that combines social justice with freedom." It adds that this means "urgently spurring the establishment of a broadly participatory political system in which all ideologies can be expressed and in which all of the segments of our society are actively involved in making the decisions that affect them."

It says further on that its refusal to acquiesce in the government's terrorism and corruption "has not meant a change in our original philosophy, as we have avoided lapsing into extreme leftwing, radical or even subversive positions." No one and nothing, it adds, "will make us alter our democratic philosophy, nor our consistent concern for the interests of the Guatemalan working class and people."

Referring to the republic's new constitution, it states that it "must enable the warring groups to achieve a high degree of social consensus. To this end, all of the country's ideological options must have the opportunity to participate freely in elections because it is through these different options that the interests of society as a whole are manifested." It goes on to say: "For this reason it is essential that the indiscriminate repression end and a climate of peace, security and calm be created among the populace. The constitution must be the outcome of such measures, not the starting point or the talisman that will cure all our ills."

Another paragraph states: "Guatemala is faced with the danger of a full-fledged civil war that is polarizing our society more each day...a lasting system of social peace must be urgently established...this means

putting together a new model for society that would unfurl the banner of social peace, based on a broad and pluralist political system and a just economic structure."

In conclusion, it calls for unity among "all democratic forces to defeat the traditional rightwing groups that are entrenched at all levels of power." It also says that a serious effort must be made to establish common ground on policies and programs and to demand realistic conditions for participation in elections.

8743

CSO: 3248/635

LAWYERS DISCUSS POLITICAL SITUATION, NEW CONSTITUTION

Guatemala City EL GRAFICO in Spanish 12 May 84 pp 5, 68

[Text] Guatemala City, 11 May--Genuine political pluralism, juridical security, restoration of legality and protection of human rights were demanded today, Friday, by the speakers at the constitutional symposia that the Bar Association is holding at the Camino Real Hotel.

The speakers were Drs Jorge Mario Garcia Laguardia and Edmundo Vasquez Martinez, and Hector Zarchrisson and Alfredo Balsells, who expressed their views on the way in which the forthcoming National Constituent Assembly might draft a democratic constitution.

Garcia Laguardia: the Parties

During his address, the doctor of constitutional law and professor at the Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM), Jorge Mario Garcia Laguardia, noted that the new Constitution of the Republic would have to make a real political pluralism a reality.

He stressed that in Guatemala there has been a "type of political exclusion and a blocking of the opposition parties which, to a large extent constitute the reason for the country's political and constitutional instability."

Garcia Laguardia said that, during recent years, "In a wrongful interpretation of the legal framework, there has been a persistent blocking of the political participation of the opposition, not only of the extreme left, but also of the moderation groups from the center to the left of center."

The speaker concluded by saying: "A genuine, and not a token nor semantic pluralism must be recognized, so that all political forces may express themselves freely."

Vasquez Martinez: Juridical Security

The former rector of San Carlos University, Dr Edmundo Vasquez Martinez, declared:

"We are currently engaged fully in a process to prepare a new constitutional text. It is most likely that this 'new Constitution' will repeat the rescinded text to a large extent, mainly because it does not appear that there is a political desire in the country to undertake a different state 'model,' nor is there any great eagerness for major innovations."

He added: "In such a situation, it would be advisable to use the Constitution of 1965 as a general draft and to direct the Constituent Assembly's efforts based on techniques for a constitutional reform or revision. Amendments will be allowed only through cancellation, substitution or addition, and the terms would be reorganized later. In this way, time would be gained, money would be saved and the country would be put back on track based on its incipient constitutional tradition."

Dr Vasquez Martinez said that the best legislative method is that of reforming and updating the laws, rather than making new ones.

Zachrisson: Restoration of Legality

Hector Zachrisson, for his part, questioned the feasibility of calling a new Constituent Assembly to draft another Constitution.

Zachrisson asked: Given the courses of action that the constitutional history of Guatemala has been pursuing, and the fact that no revolution has ever been victorious here, is there any reason or need to create another written Constitution?

The speaker remarked: "The new Constitution will be a little book of good intentions, but not a commitment to peace, because those who are at war will not be participating."

Balsells: Human Rights

Alfredo Balsells proposed that the new Constitution of the Republic call for the creation of a position of human rights prosecutor, an honest professional person who would take action against any violation of the fundamental rights of Guatemalans.

He commented that this would be a jurist who met the requirements for experience and knowledge but, in particular, those for civic courage, so as to constantly oppose abuses of authority.

Archila: Permanent Crisis

The head of the Bar Association, Luis Arturo Archila, speaking at the forum, stated that the crisis affecting the institutions in Guatemala has been permanent, "to such an extent that it would appear that we are used to living in this way."

He added: "The political crisis in which our country is steeped has been based on a number of causes, among which we should stress essentially lack of legitimacy in the exercise of authority, constant violations of human rights, administrative corruption, disrespect for the law and disdain for life."

2909

CSO: 3248/661

COUNTRY SECTION

GUATEMALA

UNIVERSITY GROUPS DENOUNCE HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS

Guatemala City LA RAZON in Spanish 3 May 84 p 4

[Text] The declining respect for human rights in our country, as reflected in disappearances, individual and group kidnappings and murders, continues to prompt concern here at home, in Central America and throughout the world, as we can see from the resolute support that the Higher Council of the Central American University (CSUSA) has accorded San Carlos University in its efforts to locate the victims.

Such human rights violations are decidedly detrimental to the country's foreign policy because they can be used as "weapons" by organizations, countries and certain well-known figures that are involved in the "campaign to discredit" Guatemala, as the government calls it.

In the most recent external show of concern, the delegates to the 19th regular meeting of the CSUCA voiced their decision to make common cause with the efforts that the Association of University Students (AEU) is also making to locate the missing persons.

They also highlighted their deep concern "over the continual kidnappings and disappearances of people in Guatemala, many of them belonging to the university community..."

The CSUCA also approved a proposal to have university rectors and student delegates "tour Mexico, Canada and the United States next September, during which time Central American universities will outline the isthmus's problems..."

The purpose of this would be to further the efforts that the Contadora Group is engaged in to find a peaceful solution to the grave crisis plaguing the Central American region, a crisis caused by both regional and outside factors.

In the view of organizations such as the CSUCA, the lack of respect for man's most fundamental right, the right to life, is cause for concern, and "steps must be taken" to end it.

The private organization "Americas Watch" has blamed the Guatemalan regime's security forces for the human rights violations and has placed little emphasis on similar acts committed by activists in extreme leftwing groups.

Amnesty International has also denounced the impunity with which individual and group kidnappings and the slayings of leaders are committed, as well as "mysterious disappearances."

These organizations infer that these violations demonstrate the existence of groups that in one way or another are "dedicated" to the selective elimination of individuals who "represent a threat."

In this context, there has again been a noteworthy rise in the kidnappings of labor leaders, which were recently enumerated by the Coordinating Board of Union Unity of Guatemala and had been previously denounced by the groups to which they belong.

In addition, the San Carlos University community has again been plagued by mounting violence, ranging from mysterious disappearances to shooting deaths at any time or place.

Organized university groups have attributed these crimes to "obscurantist sectors that are bent on exterminating progressive leaders."

The organized university groups have also pointed to State security forces as the perpetrators of these "execrable" acts.

Earth Swallowed up 157 Persons

Several people asked "Has the earth swallowed up our relatives?" when they learned of the initial negative results of the judicial proceedings ordered by the Supreme Court in taking up the writs of relief [juicio de amparo] filed on behalf of missing persons by the Human Rights Commission of Guatemala, which is based in Mexico.

This was the reaction of a woman who appeared before the court to ask whether the writ filed on behalf of her son, who was kidnapped 4 months ago, had yielded any results or not.

Such cases are very common. The Human Rights Commission of Guatemala, which "for security reasons operates out of Mexico," learned of the alleged kidnapping of 157 persons and in view of the suffering of their families filed 132 writs on their behalf.

The human rights violations in the countryside are attributed to the civil self-defense patrols, whose members have perverted their mission to protect the populace and have begun to commit abuses.

The army is also accused of human rights violations by forcing locals to join the patrols so that they can better resist and combat the attacks of the widely scattered extreme leftwing groups.

Many peasants have complained that both patrol members and some military commanders have threatened them into joining these groups, whose purpose, according to the initial concept, is to serve as a base of support for the army in "combating the subversive movement."

There have also been cases in which patrol groups have accused locals of being "subversives" just because they refused to form patrols.

Civil self-defense patrolmen have engaged in kidnapping and murder. This pathetic picture cannot but give the impression of ongoing, flagrant violations of elementary human rights and has placed the government in a very difficult situation.

It bears repeating that the human rights violations committed by guerrilla groups are given little emphasis both at home and abroad.

8743

CSO: 3248/635

ORPA COMMANDER COMMENTS ON ARMY ACTIONS

Havana VERDE OLIVO in Spanish 17 May 84 pp 20-21

[Interview with the Guatemalan guerrilla commander, Isaias, member of the command of the Revolutionary Organization of the People in Arms (ORPA), affiliated with Guatemalan National Revolutionary Unity (URNG), by Alfonso Cardona, ORPA war correspondent, in Guatemala; date not specified]

[Text] I

He could be a practicing physician, with a stylish office in downtown Guatemala City, where he would be visited by an exclusive, well-to-do clientele.

The young doctor, now Commander Isaias, chose to go in search of his people; his white gown was left in the closet, and his calling became rooted in the guerrillas' mountains.

II

We expended a great effort to scale this hill. In front of us, the stream pours its water downward precipitously, easily conquering the obstacles in its path. On the other side, there are more heights, more and more....

The Sierra Madre keeps its sharp peaks, challenging the clouds, upright. The forest appears to be impenetrable; the tallest trees blend with those of medium and low height, and it appears that there is no human life present....

It is impossible to detect quickly enough the movement of figures wearing olive drab coming to meet those who have just arrived. In a flicker of the eyes we are surrounded by guerrilla fighters, and only the guide and the correct password explain the situation. We have come on a journalistic mission, and Commander Isaias is waiting for us.

III

The bulk of the guerrilla column of the Revolutionary Organization of the People in Arms (ORPA), affiliated with Guatemalan National Revolutionary Unity (URNG), is at the height of training. They may be preparing the conditions for the next action against the Army.

One of the "champas"* in the provisional encampment houses Commander Isaias. Short in height, and speaking slowly, he is dealing with the comrades in the resistance, new members of the column, and supervising the system for political and military training. There is a pause in the work, and he answers our first question.

Enemy Counteroffensive

"Since 1981, the Army has been conducting a counteroffensive that is striking primarily the civilian population. The campaign, known as 'take the fish out of the water,' is based on the scorched earth policy, and is intended to cut off the guerrillas' social base of support.

"The enemy presence is intense, especially in the Sierra Madre, and it is deploying a large number of forces, both infantry and (where the circumstances allow) armored, and also air force and artillery.

"They have managed to create certain complex situations for us, but we have had the people's support and the fighters' steadfastness on our side; and therefore we are withstanding the counteroffensive and also continuing to develop.

"Although the Army's effort during the past 12 months has been concentrated on an attempt to gain ground, it has had to slow down the pace. Since it has demarcated areas in which the troops have to move on foot, the fatigue and the danger of being attacked by the guerrillas have been heightened.

"Added to this are difficulties in supplying themselves in the field, and the conviction that they have not achieved success, most of the time not even encountering us; which is having repercussions on their loss of morale.

"Many of the regime's troops have the idea that, in the end, the victory will be won by the revolutionary organizations, upon noting the results of the anti-guerrilla activities.

"They act only on the basis of pressure; the officers are involved in massacres of the soldiers, and make them think that, if they fall into the hands of the insurgents they will be executed. They lead their subordinates into the operations using this process of terrorism."

IV

Amid the dense vegetation, the combatants have arranged to build a channel made of "guarumo" ** that will carry water from the nearby stream. Several comrades are arranging the "bojon" *** leaves to be used to make a roof for

* A kind of field tent

** A tree native to the region

*** A small palm

the general "champa" through which we are passing now. Others are preparing a "fesco" *, for when the break in the training occurs. In a corner of the premises we continue the conversation with Commander Isaias.

Guerrilla Experience

"During the past few months, we have been gaining more experience, particularly in operations with larger units, and in the use of technical equipment by the various forces, including tactics and adapting to the climate.

"We are noting greater toughness among officers and combatants, as a result of the confrontations with the enemy. There has been a numerical increase and an overall strengthening, despite the regime's counteroffensive.

"The units under my command began 1983 with good action to recover weapons from the enemy, and later both we and the rest of the ORPA columns continued this tactic; although the same results have not always been accrued, because the Army has taken its precautions."

V

The guerrilla fighters rest in the individual "champas" while it rains both outside and inside. Some are stretched out on the mattresses made of leaves and nylon, waiting for dinner. Commander Isaias sometimes finds time to help in the kitchen, preparing something tasty. After the meal, when the reporter's questions end, he will review the fulfillment of the daily program, deal with the problems that are posed and put the finishing touches on the next action.

From Rios Montt to Mejia Victores

"The change from the dictator Rios Montt to Mejia Victores was only one of faces, because the plans of the Armed Forces high command are still the same.

"Guatemala is a country in which the rulers do not exercise the control; above them are the counter-insurgent plans and the higher-ranking officers responsible for deciding which general will best serve to represent their interests.

"Oscar Mejia Victores is continuing the plan, exemplified by the impetus given to the civilian and repression patrols, encouraged by Rios Montt and eventually organized by his successor.

"Rios Montt was replaced owing to problems and difficulties in the internal area: the impossibility of checking the guerrilla activity, the economic crisis, friction with the bourgeoisie, etc.

"The United States forced him to resolve those obstacles and to facilitate Guatemala's incorporation into CONDECA [Central American Defense Council]; but he did not fill the bill satisfactorily, and was defeated.

* A soft drink

"Mejia Victores declared that he would participate to a large extent in the imperialists' plans in Central America, but time elapsed and he also began feeling pressure. His original statements changed somewhat and, in public, he is no longer coming out so much in favor of Reagan's measures. The change bears a direct relationship to URNG's latest action.

"We claim that, under the present internal conditions, the Armed Forces lack the necessary capacity for providing CONDECA with large contingents. If they did so, they would abandon territories under guerrilla pressure."

VI

With the waning light from a small lamp, we conclude the interview in Commander Isaias' individual "champa." At one side of the primitive table, we notice texts on politics, military affairs and general literature; among the latter are those by authors such as Garcia Marquez and Pablo Neruda. One by the Chilean poet is open.

False Democracy

"Mejia Victores made an appeal for democratization, but that is merely a facade: an old expedient well known to the people. Some parties may have been confused at the outset, but when they acted and criticized the regime, several political leaders (over 20) and individuals close to the Church disappeared.

"The national crisis has reached the point where the dictatorship has adopted measures which have produced a certain amount of dissociation from sectors of the ruling class.

"This has happened mainly in the economic area. The creation of taxes of the International Monetary Fund type is aimed at curtailing the industrial, financial and commercial branches, with benefits only for the landholders.

"Combined with this are the contradictions among members of the Army, shown by frequent changes, a source of differing opinions. Officers who have been kept in the field have become sensitive to the people's poverty, and are asking the high commands why they are not being exposed to the rigors of war."

VII

To call for the advent of a just society, free of dictatorship is not a task only for dreamers, but also for revolutionaries. Perhaps, after the victory, Commander Isaias will return to medicine; this time to the social type, dedicated to solving the population's problems. He remains thoughtful, changing the subject and choosing to discuss the organization's tasks in 1984.

Line to Be Pursued

"The immediate goal is to achieve a greater concentration of forces, along with the constant mission of annihilation and recovery; to continue to bolster

the process of unity for the other organizations, and to continue the political work with the population, so as to achieve the decisive progress of the popular revolutionary war."

VIII

We emphasize the topic of the potential course of action to be pursued by him, personally, when, some day, Guatemala wins final independence.

Aspiration

"I have become so passionately attached to the military life that I would remain in it; of course, above anything else, I would place myself at the disposal of the revolution." (Fatherland: you will come shaking the doors/ with mistreated hands, with pieces/ of a surviving soul, with clusters of gazes that death has not destroyed,/ with rough tools held under the tatters/) *

There is no longer a stethoscope beside Commander Isaias, as there was during the early months, when he joined the guerrillas over 7 years ago. New responsibilities have caused him to be left only with the rifle, guiding and leading other combatants who, day after day, are risking their lives in order to cut the world off from the crime and misery abetted by the dictators. (Jackals that the jackal would reject/stones that the ruffian would gnaw,/ spitting,/ vipers that the vipers would despise) *

A strong handshake, the guide appears and we retrace our steps. It is impossible to detect quickly enough the movement of figures wearing olive drab that are becoming lost amid the bushes. (Arms of the people. Here! Threats and besiegement/ are still pouring down on the land, blending it with death,/ sharp with barbs!/) *

* Excerpts from poems by Pablo Neruda

2909

CSO: 3248/661

END TO POLICE 'RAIDS' ANNOUNCED BY FEDERAL DISTRICT HEAD

Public Pressure Acknowledged

Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish 13 Apr 84 pp 1-A, 17-A

[Article by Nidia Marin]

[Excerpt] The chief of the FDD [Federal District Department], Ramon Aguirre Velazquez, declared that at the request of the citizens, raids have definitely been suspended, despite the fact that in practicing them the authorities were acting in accordance with the Federal District police and good government regulation, which "compels us, as a preventive measure, to conduct investigations of activities that arise from given situations in Mexico City."

The raids have been suspended since 29 March, he said, pointing out that the actions had been carried out within the so-called "Citizen Protection Operation" were necessary to keep watch on activities in certain areas of the city.

He said also that penalties will be imposed on all policemen who violate legal regulations, as has occurred with more than 2,000 of them.

In response to a specific question, Aguirre Velazquez commented that there is no evidence that anyone jailed after an action of the type now canceled was asked for 10,000 pesos.

He also declared that the police, under General Ramon Mota Sanchez, seeks to serve the people efficiently, and he insisted that the fight against corruption in that service corps will continue. As a consequence, a policeman who is accused and is proved to have engaged in criminal activity will be punished according to the law in addition to being expelled from the police corps.

Mota Admits Excesses

Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish 13 Apr 84 pp 17-A, 38-A

[Report by Alfredo Jimenez]

[Text] Ramon Mota Sanchez, secretary of protection and public thoroughfares, yesterday ordered the cancellation of the "Citizens' Protection Operations," commonly called raids, and reiterated that "I will never wear the uniform of the establishment of which I am in charge because I will never be satisfied with my performance."

He categorically denied that the Preventive Police "have conducted raids," however, he admitted that abuses and regrettable deeds had been committed in the actions of the citizen protection squads and declared that "it was at the request of the neighborhood committees that those ill-named raids were established."

During a press conference at which he was asked about the difference between the citizen protection operations and raids, Mota Sanchez, without showing any change, replied:

"I am not going to fall into any snares or guileful situations but I can assure you that the Secretariat of Protection and Public Thoroughfares (SGPV) has not made illegal or arbitrary arrests."

"Henceforth," he added, "the Preventive Police will not apprehend citizens if they are not discovered in the commission of crimes."

The press conference, at which the chief of the metropolitan police replied to a volley of questions, was held in the building of the SGPV. He admitted that there is a long way to go for Mexico City to have an honest police force in keeping with its needs, and stated:

"I am not satisfied with the gains achieved and perhaps I will never be, besides, I cannot say when that will occur."

"Corruption and vices among the Preventive Police can be overcome but they have not been eradicated, hence our dissatisfaction."

By way of excuse and replying to a question about the constant abuses by patrolmen who circulate about at night in official vehicles with the roof lights off, Mota Sanchez explained that "it is due mainly to failures of the patrol cars' electrical systems or defects in the batteries, but every policeman who acts in an arbitrary manner is warned, according to his offense."

He revealed that since he took charge of the Federal District Police, 200 officers have been taken before the judicial authorities and at least 5,000 brought about dismissal from the corps, and the administrative sanctions can be numbered in the thousands. No matter how well the police perform, he added, they will always be susceptible to improvement.

At the present time, he said, the Secretariat of Protection and Public Thoroughfares has 25,000 members but it is not the number that determines better protection and security for the community. Much has to do with the

equipment, the training and the command staffs, everything that combines to provide the metropolitan area with the attention that is required.

Returning to the subject of the citizen protection campaigns, Mota Sanchez explained that the Secretariat of Protection and Public Thoroughfares is devising new arrangements with trained personnel which will be in charge of watching certain areas with foot patrolmen, motorcycle police and scout cars.

The analysis of criminal incidence, he added, will determine the areas in which vigilance will be tighter.

"The police have been accused in an irresponsible manner of carrying out raids and committing all kinds of abuses," he stated. "I want proofs; give me data so I can then take action against those who are still engaged in tarnishing the image of the police."

Speaking about protection in banking establishments, the police chief explained that there have only been three bank robberies in the Federal District so far this year and all of them "outside of business hours."

He asserted that arrangements will continue as up to now and ways will be sought to improve them.

8711

CSO: 3248/608

METROPOLITAN AREA COST OF LIVING RAW DATA

Vegetables, Fruits

Mexico City EL DIA in Spanish 2 Apr 84 'Metropoli' suppl. p 9

[Excerpt] In less than a week, vegetables have gone up 30 percent at supply centers and public markets in the NZT [Naucalpan-Zaragoza-Tlalnepantla] zone.

We toured the supply centers to observe the behavior of fruit and vegetable prices and verified increased prices for these perishable articles.

Tomatoes shot up to 70 and 80 pesos a kilo; cherry tomatoes, 80 pesos; shallots, 100 pesos; onions, 80 pesos; mountain chili, 480 pesos; chili, 200 pesos; cauliflower, from 100 to 400 pesos based on size; white potatoes, 80 pesos; yellow potatoes, 80 pesos; carrots, 120 pesos; squash, 120 pesos, etc.

As to fruit, the increases recorded last weekend were as follows: apple, 390 pesos per kilogram; melon, from 60 to 150 pesos (based on size); orange, 1 peso per piece; papaya, 40 pesos per kilo; and banana, 35 pesos per kilo.

Cooking Oil

Mexico City EL DIA in Spanish 5 Apr 84 'Metropoli' suppl. p 9

[Text] The unscrupulous merchants of Valle de Mexico in the suburbs of the proletarian districts of NZT are selling the different brands of cooking oil at 200 pesos per liter.

Former deputy America Abaroa Zamora, leader of NAUCOPAC [Union of Popular Districts of Naucalpan, AC], made this accusation.

The president of NAUCOPAC said that the official price for this product is about 175 pesos. It is strange that the merchants are pricing it at 200 pesos in the lowest income zones where there is no vigilance by SECOFIN [Secretariat of Commerce and Industrial Development]. She stated that there is no inspector or verifier from SECOFIN or the Attorney General's Office for Consumer Protection "to be found" in these areas.

Oils of different brands like Cordial, Sara, Libertador, Casa, Mazola, 1-2-3 and Piramide are priced at 200 pesos in the popular districts. However,

Mrs Abaroa Zamora stated that official prices are respected in developments and the capital areas.

Average Worker's Budget

Mexico City EL DIA in Spanish 6 Apr 84 'Metropoli' suppl. p 8

[Text] The workers of the Valle de Mexico spend 56 percent of their wages on beans and soup because meat, milk and fish are beyond their means.

The leader of the CTM [Confederation of Mexican Workers], Eduardo Roman Robles, stated this and added that those products have become luxury items.

In Mexico City itself as well as in metropolitan areas, the diet of the minimum-wage workers has been reduced to beans, rice, pasta and, in some cases, eggs. They also have fillers like tortillas and tacos.

At present the average wage--approximately 20,000 pesos--is divided up in the following way:

About 56 percent is used to purchase food and beverages; 9.5 percent for clothing and shoes; 7.4 percent for rent, fuel and electricity; 7.8 percent for domestic utensils and furniture; 6.7 percent for medical services; 6 percent for transportation; 41.3 percent [as published] for recreation; 1.3 percent for education; 3.9 percent for other services; and 2.27 percent for moving expenses.

However, the leader said that in spite of the high percentage that the worker allocates for food--the so-called basics--it is still beyond his means due to the constant increases in meat, milk, fish, oil, etc.

It was indicated that in recent days, fish--red snapper and bass--rose to 1,000 pesos. Fish less commonly eaten [as published]--sawfish and mullet--is at 600 pesos as are fruits and vegetables according to a survey of public markets and self-service stores.

Black Coffee Instead of Milk

Now according to this leader, the proletarian families are condemned to drinking black coffee, tea or simply sweetened water instead of milk which is sold at 60 to 70 pesos and is also difficult to obtain.

They eat stewmeat once a month because its price is about 400 pesos per kilo and fish all year except during Lent, the current season. It can be said that fish and seafood have not been part of the diet of families of minimum-wage workers.

Roman Robles said that the part the worker allocates for transportation and for the education of his children is ludicrous. More than half his wages is used merely to eat. The CTM leader ended saying that rice and cooking oil are beginning to be hoarded by the merchants now.

White Bread

Mexico City EL DIA in Spanish 12 Apr 84 'Metropoli' suppl. p 9

[Excerpt] Naucalpan, Mex., 11 Apr--Facing a shortage of dough and tortillas, the bakers in this city dealt a harsh blow to the budgets of the housewives and consumers in general by raising white bread (loaf and buns) to 4 pesos a piece. There were angry protests from people who went to the bakeries in the proletarian districts and in the municipal capital itself. One was the "San Bartolome" Bakery on 16 de Septiembre downtown.

In the El Molinito zone, Pedro Pineda Gonzalez, leader of the Federation of Popular Districts, accused Eulalio Alcantara Chimal, former president of the Chamber of Commerce of that city and owner of 25 bakeries, of having raised the price of white bread--buns and loaf--to 4 pesos. Officially it should be sold at 2 pesos.

Costly Fish Varieties

Mexico City EL DIA in Spanish 13 Apr 84 'Metropoli' suppl. p 9

[Text] Fish prices increased up to 40 percent in retail stores in the NZT zones 4 days before Holy Week.

In a survey of public markets, we observed that red snapper, grouper and bass have become scarce.

Housewives and consumers in general found only mullet and sawfish. Both were priced at 600 to 650 pesos per kilogram.

In the few retail stores where grouper fillets were sold, the price was between 700 and 800 pesos per kilo.

Whole red snapper (sliced) costs 900 pesos as does bass. Fillets are sold at 1,200 pesos.

The consumers complain that mullet and sawfish--most commonly consumed--are priced at 600 to 650 pesos per kilo. Therefore, they feel that a large part of the population is condemned to not eating fish during Holy Week. It has become a luxury item.

Clams, shrimp, squid and cod are not even mentioned since they are far beyond the means of the working class.

Inexpensive Fish

Mexico City EL DIA in Spanish 19 Apr 84 'Metropoli' suppl. p 9

[Text] Naucalpan, Mex., 18 Apr--To help the budgets of the housewives who live in the lowest income areas, the municipal committee of the DIF [System for Complete Family Development] has made different varieties of fish available to

the residents at the lowest price possible through the state programs of that institution.

At the DIF-Naucalpan installations, mullet, mojarra and trout are sold every Thursday at only 85 pesos per kilogram.

Beans: 80-150 Pesos

Mexico City EL DIA in Spanish 20 Apr 84 'Metropoli' suppl. p 9

[Text] Ecatepec, Mex., 19 Apr--Merchants and tenants of the markets in the Fifth Zone of the former Vaso de Tezcoco raised the price of a kilo of beans of the common variety to 80 pesos and top quality beans to 150 pesos.

This accusation was made by Antonio Rodriguez, leader of Granjas Valle de Guadalupe. He added that the illegal increase in beans--300 percent over its official price of 29.60 pesos--has considerably hurt the working class.

The increases are felt even more in the districts in the eastern zone of Ecatepec as well as in the Fourth Zone of Nezahualcoyotl where thousands of families of underemployed and unemployed workers live.

The black Veracruz bean, pinto, chick peas, peanut, flor de mayo and even the bayo gordo--the most commonly consumed--cost 80 pesos per kilo.

He said that another product that threatens to become scarce in the zone, according to the merchants, is rice. It is sold at up to 100 pesos per kilo, according to Antonio Rodriguez, leader of the Fourth and Fifth Zones of the former Vaso de Tezcoco.

Meat Increases

Mexico City EL DIA in Spanish 23 Apr 84 'Metropoli' suppl. p 9

[Excerpts] The price of beef increased to 700 pesos in districts and developments of the NZT zone despite protests by housewives and consumers in general, according to Dolores Velazquez, secretary for women's action of the Confederation of Popular Districts of Mexico State.

She said that this has occurred in the municipal seats and in the suburbs of Naucalpan, Tlalnepantla and Atizapan as well as in other towns bordering the Federal District.

A kilo of stewmeat, most common meat, rose to 550 pesos, according to Dolores Velazquez. Last week it was 480 pesos.

She ended stating that SECOFIN verifiers have not shown up in the residential developments, much less in the popular zone where the butchers take advantage the most.

Egg, Meat Prices

Mexico City EL DIA in Spanish 25 Apr 84 'Metropoli' suppl. p 9

[Excerpt] Naucalpan, Mex., 24 Apr--Thousands of housewives in the popular zone received the news yesterday at breakfast that eggs rose to 160 pesos per kilogram and beef remains at 700 pesos.

CTM leaders Eduardo Roman Robles, Miguel Sanchez Aleman and Antonio Trejo noted that this rising spiral is alarming in the metropolitan areas of Mexico State.

As if this were not enough, the distributors and poultry raisers in the region have been announcing that eggs will reach 200 pesos and a kilo of meat 800 pesos, according to our informants.

Various Meat Cuts

Mexico City EL DIA in Spanish 27 Apr 84 'Metropoli' suppl. p 9

[Text] Naucalpan, Mex., 26 Apr--Without prior notice, the butchers of the "Pochteca" municipal market and Naucalpan Supply Center raised meat (steak and roasts) to 750 pesos per kilo.

The above has made housewives and consumers in general discontented and angry.

Maria Guadalupe Picazo, president of the House of the CNOP [National Confederation of Popular Organizations] Woman, made this announcement.

Stewmeat, the most common meat according to our informant, is being sold in the El Molinito market at 600 pesos in spite of protests by consumers in the popular zone.

In the residential developments of Naucalpan, a kilo of fillet is sold at 1,500 pesos based on size.

Organ meat has gone up 100 percent at all the markets.

Tongue is 700 pesos per kilo; liver is 400 pesos; and tripe is 400 pesos.

A head of cattle costs between 3,000 and 3,500 pesos. Organ meat before was considered commonly consumed food.

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CSO: 3248/632

BRIEFS

FEDERAL DISTRICT POLICE TRAINING--The Federal District Auxiliary Police--11,500 members--will receive instruction and training in the areas of security, prevention and fire-fighting, and personal defense to incorporate it as a support corps in the prevention and security effort. Yesterday, at the first meeting of the corps, General Enrique Soberanes Gamboa reported on the activities of that corps, explaining that "the changes in the systems of qualification, training and administration will result in a better quality of service which should translate into greater demand among the customers of the Auxiliary Police service, to the benefit of both the personnel and the companies that contract them in the various areas of security and vigilance." In his report, Soberanes Gamboa stated that at the present time there is a capacity for training 500 persons per month. He added that through computerized systems, the corps has been able to institute modern accounting sectors, personnel control, weapons control, customer control, better payment systems, among other benefits that are beginning to reveal a new and better image of the Auxiliary Police. "We will go from improvisation to complete organization, which will dispel the concept that the auxiliary policeman is simply a car watchman or washer and transform his activities into one of the most important in the area of security." [Excerpts] [Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish 18 Apr 84 p 27-A] 8711

CSO: 3248/608

DUTCH CONCERNED ABOUT PROGRESS OF ARUBA'S SPECIAL STATUS

Rotterdam NRC HANDELSBLAD in Dutch 3 May 84 p 3

[Text] The Hague, 3 May--Practically all the parties in the Second Chamber indicated this morning that they were very concerned about the slow course of affairs in extricating Aruba from the Antillean federation.

In his regular consultation with Minister De Koning (Antillean Affairs), CDA [Christain Democratic Appeal] spokesman Aarts spoke even of "sabotage on all levels", chiefly on the part of Curacao, of efforts to carry out the agreements of the round-table conference of the beginning of last year.

Jabaaïj (PvdA [Party of Labor]) said that the new political structure for the Antilles was in danger of becoming "a nightmare" and asked the minister what he planned to do to accelerate the process.

The members of the Chamber indicated that, in particular, nothing has been worked out yet in the way of an inventory, which is needed in order to arrive at a partition between Aruba and the remaining five islands.

Minister De Koning said that he shared the Chamber's concern. Nevertheless, in his opinion, the Netherlands would have to stick to the date of 1 January 1986 as the commencement date for Aruba's separate status, because abandoning this would mean further postponing the problems. If the Antilles do not succeed in reaching an agreement, the result will be that the old internal arrangement of power will remain and that will then be the Antilles' own responsibility, said De Konig. The national act providing for Aruba's separate status will, in any event, certainly be ready on time.

Point of Contention

One of the points of contention with the Netherlands is the solidarity fund for the smaller islands, to which the Netherlands wants to contribute only ten percent. De Koning said that he would hold firm to the Dutch position, even though the ten percent is not absolutely sacred. De Koning expressed the opinion that the opposition to the Dutch share of the fund was merely an alibi for not cooperating in the process of independence.

CDA-member Aarts noted in this connection that Curacao and the four small islands absolutely do not want to be separated from the Netherlands and that this is the principal problem.

The CDA and the VVD [People's Party for Freedom and Democracy] supported the Dutch position in the matter of the solidarity fund. The PvdA seemed prepared to raise the Dutch share.

De Koning declared that the Dutch contribution to the fund should stay as small as possible. Otherwise, the large measure of internal autonomy that the Antilles have possessed since 1954 would be broken down, according to the minister. If the Netherlands were to have to directly shoulder the budgetary deficits on the islands, that would only increase the Antilles' dependence, he said. He noted that the total Dutch contribution to the fund would in any event have to remain under the ceiling of the Dutch developmental contribution to the Antilles. This contribution is five percent of the total Dutch developmental budget.

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